Sandwell
CHRONICLE

Thursday, April 16, 2015 | Read by more than 68,000 people | Price when sold 60p

Work due to start on leisure project for youngsters

SKATE PARK DREAM TO BECOME REALITY

BY ANDREW TURTON

YOUNGSTERS in Great Barr are celebrating after their two-year campaign for a skate park is to culminate in work starting on the project within weeks.

More than 70 young people signed a petition asking for the skate park to be created on land to the rear of Tanhouse Community Centre, in a campaign which was backed by councillors.

A series of consultation events were held with young people to assess the viability of the scheme since the petition was tabled in August 2013.

Sandwell Council has agreed to find the cash to fund the creation of the park behind the centre in Hamstead Road, Hamstead.

Campaigners say they are pleased that the funding is in place and hope other charitable organisations will come on board with the project in the future. Eventually they say they could work with other groups to access further grant funding to allow for the expansion of the facility once it is up and running.

Finalising

Dave Hosell, who has been ward councillor and is standing in the council elections this May, paid tribute to the young people who petitioned for the scheme.

He says funding is now secured and council officials are finalising details with developers who will begin building work imminently.

The open ground has been used as a football pitch previously and part of the site is now home to all weather pitch and children's play area.

Hundreds of people attend the annual bonfire night event held behind the community centre.

And Mr Hosell says the event which attracts families from around the area would still go ahead with the skate park in place.

"This is what the young people have been asking for for a while and I'm happy that it is going ahead," Mr Hosell said.

Free health checks

FREE health checks will be on offer at a series of roadshows to raise awareness of the causes of stroke and coronary heart disease. Rotary clubs across the West Midlands have helped organise the events including blood pressure and pulse checks, blood sugar tests and lifestyle advice.

The organisations have joined forces with the Stroke Association, nursing students, staff from Community First Responders and volunteers. On May 16 they will be at Morrisons supermarket in Wednesbury from 9.30am to 2.30pm.

DRAGON'S DEN IN TOWN FOR SAINTLY CELEBRATION

Getting ready for the St George's Day event with their dragon are Donna Martin, Maggie Dorsett with Olwen Jones and Elaine Costigan

A DRAGON has been spotted on the streets of Wednesbury – but there is no cause for alarm.

Member of the Wednesbury Celebrates Community Association have brought in the fun costume to promote its annual St George's Day party today, Thursday.

They have been accompanying the dragon as it makes its way around the town selling tickets for the event at Wednesbury Town Hall. Due to the popularity of the venue on Holyhead Road the event is being held a week ahead of the official date.

Councillor Elaine Costigan, said: "This is going to be a great event. Every year we celebrate St George's Day with a great bash. I think this is the third year now and each one has been a great success.

"You get people dancing of all ages which is great. It is not unusual to see people in their 90s joining in and having a great time.

"There will be flags all over the tables and it is sure to be a fun event."

Performing on the night will be Jean Martyn, the former Britain's Got Talent finalist, who won over audiences with her lively and energetic performances on the keyboard and organ. The former teacher originally hails from Brewood.

Those attending will also be treated to Midlands-based vocal harmony trio Miss Fortunes.

The trio performs vintage music from the 1920s to the modern day. Other singers will also be performing.

Tickets for the St. George's Day party are £6 and are available from the Town Hall box office or online at www.wednesburycelebrates.org.uk

ENDEAVOUR

Emotional return for marathon hero

INSPIRATIONAL fundraiser Blind Dave Heeley was given a hero's welcome as he was re-united with his wife and children following an epic trek across the Sahara.

The marathon man and West Bromwich Albion fan was met with a loving hug and kiss from his wife Debbie as well as huge applause from a crowd awaiting his return at The Hawthorns.

His daughters Dannie,11, Georgie Lee, 13 and Grace, 24, also congratulated their father with a big hug.

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CHARITY

Team gears up for biking trek

THREE cyclists from Sandwell are to take on a charity bike challenge.

Mathew Burling, Steve Scrivens, and Anita Crees are to take on the Stroke Association's Thames Bridges Bike Ride on Sunday, May 10.

Each member of the team has sadly lost someone close to stroke.

Mr Burling, aged 29, from Oldbury, lost his grandmother in 2000.

The charity supports people living with effects of stroke. For more details go to: www.stroke.org.uk.

HERITAGE

Memories sought of Manor House

MEMORIES of West Bromwich's Manor House Museum are being sought for a new project which will delve into 800 years of history. Staff at Sandwell Museums are looking to uncover hidden stories about the site in Hall Green Road.

Museum services manager Jane Hanney said: "We are calling out for people to come forward with their stories or their family stories and share them with us."

Anyone interested can email museumarts_tourism@sandwell.gov.uk, contact Zoe Scriven at the Oak House on 0121 553 0759 or visit www.facebook.com/bromwichallmemories

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BAGGIES' DAY TO REMEMBER

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Happy end to tale as stolen dog rescued

Kelly, Alfie and RSPCA's Stephanie Law

A STOLEN dog was rescued by chance when it ran out in front of an RSPCA van on a deserted road more than 100 miles from home.

Yorkshire terrier Alfie was stolen from his heartbroken owner's home in Dingley Road in Wednesbury, along with another terrier Lillie, by burglars on March 21.

Owner Kirsty Mitton, aged 23, feared she would not see either of the dogs again – however, weeks later, seven-year-old Alfie ran out of nearby woods barking at a RSPCA inspector's car in Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire. Inspector Stephanie Law stopped her car and opened her door before Alfie immediately jumped inside. A scan of his microchip revealed he had been stolen from Miss Mitton, who had been his owner for eight years.

It was then arranged for him to be returned to his relieved owner.

In a bizarre turn of events, Miss Mitton's other dog, Lillie, was found by a member of the public walking the streets in Battersea, London, 22 miles away five days later.

After her appeal was answered by the dog's finder, she picked her up from the capital.

Speaking on finding Alfie, Inspector Law said: "I have had plenty of people wave me down for help, but I have never actually been flagged down by a dog in need of rescue before."He ran right in front of the van, barking and as soon as I stopped and opened the door he just bounded in and jumped onto the seat – and looked at me. It was as if he recognised my uniform and knew I was there to rescue him.

"We can only assume he had been dumped in the woods and came running out when he heard me drive along. He's a lovely, friendly dog despite his ordeal and I am so pleased he got the happy ending he deserved."

Miss Mitton said she was shocked when she received a call from the RSPCA saying Alfie had been found, adding that she instantly recognised his bark down the phone. "I think he was just really lucky that when he ran out in front of the van, it was an RSPCA van and not a normal van. He was a lucky boy."

Blind Dave's desert race in history books

BRUISED and blistered but exhilarated – charity champion Dave Heeley has arrived home after completing his latest gruelling challenge, a 160-mile run across the Sahara desert.

The keen West Bromwich Albion fan has made history after becoming the first blind athlete to complete the Marathon Des Sables.

During the extreme challenge he has braved searing temperatures of between 45 and 50 degrees celsius – around 122 degrees fahrenheit – and freak weather, including sandstorms fanned by 60mph winds.

The father-of-three, who was raising money for the Albion Foundation, said he suffered blistered feet from the rough and often rocky terrain, which included walks up 590ft high sand dunes and mountains up to 1,500ft high.

So far, he has raised over £20,000 for the charity, but he aims for a figure of £30,000.

He said: "It has just been an unbelievable experience. It has not really sunk in yet what I have done, but over the next week I know I will be talking to a lot of people about it.

"It has just been a horrible adventure in respect of how gruelling it has been, but at the same time an absolutely fantastic adventure."

During his trip, he also met Sir Ranulph Fiennes, who has been named the world's greatest living explorer by the Guinness Book of World Records, as the 71-year-old completed a record of his own by becoming the oldest Briton to finish the intense six day trek. He said the pair discussed family life during their meeting.

Mr Heeley added: "There were over 1,000 competitors. Each and every single one of them was fantastic. We have all done our own challenges and I think every single competitor in the race should be proud of themselves."

He completed the race in stages, with the longest being a 91km trek, while there was also a 42km stage. He had support from his two guides Tony Ellis and Rosemary Rhodes who accompanied him across the desert.

His kit bag weighed around 9kgs and carried all his essentials.

They stayed in a bivouac every night, which is a French-style tent. The only items eaten each day was dried food like noodles, fruit and even cottage pie and chilli con carne. The team had to eat a minimum of 2,000 calories a day. On his return to the Baggies' Hawthorns ground on Monday, he was given the red carpet treatment, while a blind football team from Sandwell was also present to welcome him back. He also participated in a question and answer session with his fans. The money raised will help to pay for improved facilities for disabled athletes involved with the Albion Foundation.

He said: "Hopefully, it will show to the disabled that there is life out there for them and they don't have to sit around on their backsides wondering what they can do. They should look at me and think 'if that codger can do it, then so can I.'"

To donate visit www.justgiving.com/blinddavemds or go to the foundation website at www.thealbionfoundation.co.uk

Dave Heeley during one of the stages of the marathon in the Sahara, with guide Rosemary Rhodes

The 30th year of the event was marked by competitors

A quiet moment for Dave in his bivouac

John Lewis looking for hundreds to work at site

JOHN Lewis has begun recruiting staff for more than 650 jobs at its new store due to open in Birmingham in September.

The department store will be the anchor tenant of the new Grand Central retail development, which sits above the redeveloped New Street Station in the centre of the city.

One of the largest John Lewis shops outside of London, the Birmingham store's floor area will cover 250,000 sq ft – the equivalent of three and a half football pitches. The shop will be the business's first full-line department store to open in four years and represents a £35million investment, bosses say.

Recruitment has begun for some of the specialist roles with the majority of the 650 plus jobs due to follow next month.

John Lewis head of branch Lisa Williams said: "With less than six months to go until opening the shop is beginning to take shape and the excitement is really starting to build. John Lewis Birmingham is going to be our regional flagship shop – one of our largest – and will bring the very best John Lewis has to offer to the city.

"I'm really looking forward to being an active part of the local community and welcoming our customers to what will be a very special retail experience."

Shops due to open at Grand Central along with John Lewis, include The White Company, Office Shoes, Cath Kidston, L'Occitane, Square Pie, Tapas Revolution and Crepe Affaire.

£2k computer equipment gift

A BUSINESS has supported an academy in Oldbury by donating more than £2,000 towards computer equipment.

Dart Products Limited recently awarded Ormiston Forge Academy £2,374 to purchase 12 Chromebooks for English students. Dart, a manufacturer of food service packaging, is based in Garratts Lane, Cradley Heath.

Head of English at Forge, Dave Jenks, said: "We are incredibly grateful for this generous donation from Dart. These Chromebooks will make a difference to the way our students are able to access materials."

Greg Kettle, a shift supervisor at Dart and alumnus of Ormiston Forge Academy when it was Heathfield School, presented the cheque along with his son Dylan, a year seven student at Forge.

Youths warned on yobbish behaviour

ANTI-SOCIAL youths have been climbing on roof tops, banging on windows and abusing passers-by, prompting action from police. The misbehaviour has been taking place in Princes End High Street. Police have sent out warning letters to those youths responsible.

Overhaul of Junction 10 project in ultimatum

THE £65million overhaul of the M6 Junction 10 island faces the scrapheap if work does not start within five years.

A 2020 deadline has been placed on the project, which aims to improve one of the busiest motorway junctions in the country.

The aim is to cut down on the chronic congestion that cripples the island and motorway every day, improving traffic flow by doubling the number of lanes and building improved bridges.

However, it emerged today that if the 2020/21 deadline isn't hit, the project will be frozen. But Walsall Council highways bosses have come out fighting, promising that the ambitious project will go ahead as planned and be completed by 2020.

Under the initial plans, lanes going over the motorway will increase from two to four with the bridges rebuilt. The M6 slip roads will be widened along with improvements to the Wolverhampton Road and Bloxwich Lane junction. There will also be some modifications to the Black Country Route.

In a planning application document, Rachel Telfer, senior transport planner at the council, has warned of the potential impact on work not starting. It is currently hoped work will get under way in 2017/18.

She says: "Currently the junction operates beyond its design capacity – the project seeks to address this issue by increasing the width of the bridge.

"Replacing the existing structures not only removes the requirement for Highways England to undertake, within approximately the next five years, planned maintenance at J10, and simultaneously allows for capacity improvements to be made.

"Should the council, within that timeframe, be unable to deliver this project, this will lead to intervention by Highways England to replace the existing structures and therefore forgo the opportunity to increase the capacity of the junction. "

Firm damaged after plug fire

A FIRE in an electric plug socket caused smoke damage to a Black Country business premises.

Fire crews from Haden Cross were called to the offices of Halesowen Self-Drive at Oak Lodge Buildings in Furnace Hill, Halesowen shortly before 2pm on Good Friday after ambulance crews reported seeing smoke coming from the building.

Watch commander Justin Bayliss, who is based at Haden Cross, said the blaze was in a ground floor plug socket, but the smoke had caused damage both to the van rental agency's office and neighbouring firms as the firm shares its base with five other businesses. The fire crews, with support from a Brigade Response Vehicle, were at the scene for an hour.

'Amazing' day as relatives relive past glories

Grandson Joseph Jeffrey places the matchball on the plinth

Widow Laraine Astle applauds the players in the 1968 kit

Jeff Astle in his England kit

Fans and family united in homage to The King

THE family of Jeff Astle were moved to tears as almost 28,000 fans united to pay a special tribute to the Albion legend dubbed The King.

Players and supporters came together to celebrate the legacy of the late former striker and mark the launch of the Jeff Astle Foundation which will be dedicated to researching the brain condition which claimed his life 13 years ago.

There was a celebratory mood among supporters before kick-off as they remembered The King and marked Astle Day. Kelvin Stokes, aged 66, was in his late teens when Astle scored the cup final winner. He said: "As a player he was dynamic, a real match winner. He was always there at the right time with his head. I remember he turned up once to a surprise someone we knew on their birthday and the first thing he said was 'where is the food' and later he was doing karaoke. He was one of the lads. He didn't put himself on a pedestal."

David Bing, 69, a season ticket holder, added: "We never lost a night game back in the 60s. They just used to put the ball over and Astle was there." Inside The Hawthorns, there were emotional scenes as Astle's family came onto the pitch and his youngest grandson, two-year-old Joseph Jeffrey, carried out the match ball.

The current players emerged from the tunnel in replica tracksuits. The Premier League had given Albion permission for the players to wear a replica kit from the 1968 FA Cup final. It is only the second time the Premier League had sanctioned such a move. Previously Manchester United were allowed to do so to mark the 50th anniversary of the Munich air disaster in 2008.

At half-time Astle's daughter Dawn told the fans her Dad had loved them "as much as they loved him" and thanked them for their support. And Astle's widow, Laraine, presented the entire sell-out crowd with the Jeff Astle Memorial trophy – presented annually to people who have made an outstanding contribution to the club.

Dawn said: "The bit that was really tough was when they showed the current team coming out of the tunnel and then switched it to the Cup final team coming out of that famous tunnel at Wembley in 1968. It was just amazing."

West Brom fans seated in the Birmingham Road End lift up coloured cards to pay tribute to The King

Daughters Dawn and Claire and widow Laraine line up

Doug Fraser, John Talbut, John Kaye, Graham Wil-

NEWS IN BRIEF

Unseen images to go on display

A UNIQUE exhibition of photographs profiling life in Sandwell during a 20-year period has been launched.

Unseen Sandwell will give people an insight into local history, showing people and places between 1974 and 1994. The photographs have been taken from the Jubilee Arts Archive and are going on public display for the first time.

The exhibition will run at Sandwell Arts Café, formerly The Public building, in West Bromwich, until May 27, Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. Admission is free.

Brum is next for devolved powers

BIRMINGHAM is to become the next city to get devolved powers, it has been claimed, in a move that would likely mean councils in the Black Country being granted greater responsibilities.

Conservative Party grandee Lord Hestletine said it had been agreed by the Government to make the change in the second city.

The move, which has already been made in Greater Manchester, would likely mean councils in the Black Country being given greater freedom over business rates, transport, planning and public health services.

Brew up to help hospice coffers

BUSINESSES and residents are invited to put the kettle on and help celebrate Care 4 a Cuppa day in aid of St Giles Hospice.

Coffee mornings, tea breaks and bake sales will be held to raise funds for the charity, which has hospices in Walsall and Staffordshire, on May 15.

People can sign up to claim a free Care 4 a Cuppa kit, including invites, balloons, bunting and more. To order a kit, visit www.stgileshospice.com/cuppa or call 01543 432538.

Fabricant reveals skin cancer diagnosis

Michael Fabricant, defending Conservative MP for Lichfield, has been diagnosed with cancer. Mr Fabricant, 64, revealed yesterday that doctors confirmed he had skin cancer at Queen's Hospital in Burton.

In a message to his 19,000 Twitter followers, he said it had been 'probably caught in time'.

He said: "I had various bits removed so walking very oddly. The staff at Queen's are excellent. Well done NHS. Apart from the stitches I feel fine."

Boss's race boost

Saint Are, the horse which came second in the Grand National, is owned by a Cheslyn Hay businessman, it has emerged. The horse was just pipped to the post by Many Clouds on Saturday. Saint Are is owned by David Fox, the chairman of electronics company Power Panels.

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THE BEST OF PETER RHODES

REJOICE, for enormous quantities of oil have been discovered in Surrey. In time, this could make us far less dependent on oil extracted from unstable parts of the world with civil strife, bizarre religious practices and wild tribal divisions. I refer, of course, to Scotland.

HEALTH experts in France are alarmed at a sudden increase in "the Anglo-Saxon phenomenon" of excessive boozing, street crime and unprotected sex." Welcome to le binge-drinking. Another triumph for British exports.

A DELEGATE at the National Union of Teachers' conference claimed new security rules aimed to prevent radicalism were turning teachers into spies. Or to put it another way, inviting teachers to be socially responsible. Would you want to be the teacher who, in the wake of a jihadist massacre in an English city, admitted that, yeah, you were always a bit suspicious about little Hamza in Year 12 but decided it was better to defend his right to privacy?

IT is all very well Transport Secretary Patrick McCoughlin suggesting traffic wardens should "take a more understanding attitude" and issue verbal warnings rather than fixed-penalty tickets. This sort of stuff sounds excellent in Whitehall committee rooms. In the real world, however, following the new guidelines, wardens would carry on dishing out tickets to little old ladies while giving kindly warnings to large gentlemen with tattoos.

WE take tweeters far too seriously. A few years ago, if anyone accused an actor as popular as Roger Moore of being a racist, the national media would make sure they checked the credentials of whoever was making such a serious allegation. Social media has changed all that. A bunch of tweeters with names like Wazzle444 and Aryanwarrior decide Sir Roger is a racist, based on an interview he gave to a French magazine, and are somehow regarded as serious sources when they could well be no more than children, drunks or members of what we used to call the green-ink brigade. Something about computers and the internet makes us treat tweeters seriously in a way we never treated old-fashioned poison-pen writers. And so the story takes off and one of Britain's most distinguished actors, with a fine record of charity and disaster-relief work, is forced on the defensive by anonymous nobodies who denounce him as "an old racist" and "an ignorant old fool." My own policy on encountering tweeters, trolls and suchlike is to regard them as 14-year-old bedwetters using their mums' computers, until proven otherwise.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Fan Stan shows his true colours

THE press box at a football match is usually full of reporters and commentators keeping their emotions in check as they watch over proceedings – but Stan Collymore couldn't hide his true colours as he wildly celebrated a goal for Aston Villa.

And it was an eventful night for Collymore, with the ex-Villa striker coming face-to-face with former Wolves player Karl Henry for the first time since the pair had a public Twitter spat.

Never one to hide his feelings, Collymore leapt up in the press box to celebrate Christian Benteke's second goal, which put Villa 2-1 ahead against QPR.

Clad in a claret and blue Villa scarf, Collymore was pictured jumping from his seat, pumping his fists and raising his arms aloft. In contrast those sat by him barely batted an eyelid.

Collymore's joy was short-lived though, with Villa being pegged back by their relegation rivals in a thrilling 3-3 draw at Villa Park. Villa fans took to Twitter to praise Collymore's passion. Marcus Markou said: "Villa's most passionate fan Stan Collymore dumping the commentary to head, clear and shoot every ball."

Stan celebrates Aston Villa's goal

Maxine aiming high for her final months

By Richard Guttridge

MOTHER-OF-THREE Maxine Smith has taken everything that has been thrown at her over the past five years and valiantly come out the other side.

She reels off the types of cancer she has suffered as if reading from a shopping list.

There is barely a part of her body that has not been touched by the illness – and she has been told she has just six months to live.

And now she is determined to make the most of the time she has left by taking part in a skydive.

"It was a bit heart-breaking," said the 46-year-old, of Red Lion Close, Tividale, of being told the news.

"I was sitting thinking I have got three children who I am never going to see grow up, get married and go to high school."

It seems a world away for Maxine, but there was a time when she didn't have cancer, when she was starting a family with husband Rob and looking ahead to life's endless possibilities.

"There was nothing wrong with me at all," said Maxine, mum to daughter Hannah-Paige, 10, and eight-year-old twin sons Daniel and Alex.

"I found a lump, it kept reappearing and disappearing. I couldn't let it go. My mum asked me to get checked. She had suffered with cancer three or four years before. Then I found out I had grade two breast cancer."

That was in 2010 – and an extremely turbulent five years were to follow. After the trauma of undergoing a double mastectomy, a breast reconstruction allowed her to regain some confidence.

But two years later, she was told they too would have to be removed as the cancer had returned.

The year in between she was diagnosed with skin cancer. "Then my head wasn't right," Maxine said, fast-forwarding to last month.

"So I was given a CT scan. I need to start radiotherapy on my brain in a week. I need 12-13 sessions and hopefully it may help, but my life expectancy has decreased to six months.

"In a nutshell I've had breast cancer, lung cancer, skin cancer, bone cancer and brain cancer. In the last five years they have all cropped up."

Maxine is determined to enjoy her final few months. She has taken to wearing bright colours and odd socks and is preparing to take part in a skydive.

She admitted there had been dark times over the past five years but now says she has accepted her fate. "When I was told I hadn't got long left I just thought 'I'm going to embrace it' and become this crazy lady. I have always wanted to skydive but it's something I've never done because I'm scared of heights.

Cancer sufferer Maxine Smith from Tividale who has six months to live, with her friend Julia Sorrow

Dancers' milestone with Mickey

YOUNGSTERS from a performing arts group are celebrating a landmark anniversary as they prepare to take to the stage with Mickey Mouse.

Avia Academy of Performing Arts was started around four years ago and now holds classes across West Bromwich, Tipton and Coseley each week. Around 150 children aged from two to 18 go to classes weekly hosted by group founder Jade Turner to learn a range of skills in different dance genres. Classes are held in cheerleading, ballet, freestyle, street dance and hip hop as well as musical theatre on different nights Monday to Friday.

The club hopes to expand in the future to hold Saturday sessions and also open its own dance studio. Jade, aged 27, from Newhall Street, in Tipton, worked as a performer and dancer for years including seasons in Ibiza before setting up the group.

But she says the group have gone from strength to strength and won around 150 trophies since it was established.

For their latest experience, a group of children will be going to Disneyland Paris in October to take part at the International Festival of Dance and Performing Arts.

Call 07870 738826 for details on the academy.

Bailiffs' use tops 20,000 times over council tax

BAILIFFS were used more than 20,000 times to chase unpaid council tax in parts of the West Midlands in a single year.

Six councils have revealed they referred households to bailiffs 20,345 as they were in arrears. It has sparked criticism from campaigners who say all other alternatives should be explored first. And they claim the figures show how families are struggling to make ends meet.

Councils have defended their use, claiming they never put 'undue pressure' on residents and ensure support is offered.

Walsall council chiefs called in bailiffs 11,505 times alone, compared to 5,087 times in Wolverhampton.

Cannock Chase Council sent out bailiffs 954 times, while they were used 911 in Stafford and 1,026 in South Staffordshire. It happened 862 times in Wyre Forest. The figures were released after a Freedom of Information request.

But Sandwell Council revealed last year that by the end of June 10,905 tenants were in arrears, owing a total of £3.05 million.

And in February the total owed by tenants in Dudley stood at £1.5m, with 60 being evicted from April to December last year.

Critics argue councils could still collect the same amount of council tax without having to use bailiffs.

Charity bosses also estimate more than 23,000 families have fallen into council tax arrears in the last year in the region.

New loading bay on its way

A NEW loading bay will be installed along a busy Walsall road to help businesses. A set of traffic lights along Bridge Street will be removed and replaced with a bay.

It will mean traders will be able to load and unload throughout the day.

Valerie Vaz, Labour parliamentary candidate for Walsall South, welcomed the news. She said: "I am delighted that following my representations to Walsall Council they have agreed to remove a set of traffic lights on Bridge Street and to install loading bays.

"Many businesses were having difficulty receiving deliveries as a result of the restrictions. Local businesses need support. Walsall needs a diverse range of small businesses and positive action such as that taken on Bridge Street will help our high streets to thrive."

Increase in people keeping active

THE number of people keeping fit and active in a part of the Black Country has increased, a report has shown. However, just a fifth of people are involved in three 30 minute workouts a week in Walsall, but that is up from 16.1 per cent in 2006.

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Officers on manhunt discovered drug farm

POLICE stumbled on a £150,000 drug farm while hunting for a wanted man, a judge heard. There was no trace of the suspect but officers found 152 cannabis plants under cultivation and a harvested crop being dried, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The knock on the door of the house in St Matthews Road, Smethwick was answered by 49-year-old Richard Griffiths, said Mr David Swinnerton, prosecuting, who explained: "They were looking for somebody completely different but noticed that he was agitated, sweating and nervous.

"The officers thought this was because the man they sought was in the house. They did not find him but they did discover cannabis being dried in an extension to the kitchen and a drug farm being cultivated in rooms upstairs with a potential value of up to £150,000."

Griffiths told police he allowed his home to be used on the promise of earning £6,000 to pay off a debt run up with a loan shark.

Mr Carl Templar-Vasey, defending, explained: "He was in considerable debt, was given an option to repay it and took it. He is a desperate man who was prepared to resort to desperate measures. It was an extraordinarily bad decision."

Griffiths from St Matthews Road pleaded guilty to permitting premises to be used for the production of cannabis on September 5 and was given a 10-month jail sentence suspended under supervision for 18 months and ordered to do 200 hours unpaid work.

Crash tragedy probe launches

A ROAD smash where a driver was killed when his car crashed into a tree while being pursued by police is being investigated by the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

The 26-year-old man was pronounced dead at the scene following the crash along Bristol Road South, in Birmingham, at 11pm on April 1.

A West Midlands Police dog handling vehicle had been in pursuit of the car leading up to the collision.

Investigators from the IPCC were deployed to the scene and to Park Lane police station. An independent investigation has now been launched.

Investigators have been in contact with the man's family and are updating them on the progress of the investigation.

Baths revamp work to begin

A £1 MILLION revamp of Walsall's Gala Baths is due to start soon and be completed by the summer holiday period. The revamp will provide new water features and better changing rooms.

Firm shows its care for community

Doosan Babcock staff seen at work

STAFF from an engineering took part in activities across their community as part of a national event.

More than 40 Tipton-based staff kept the spirit alive alongside employees in eight other regions up and down the country to participate in charitable activities ranging from serving food to the elderly to repairing a local community hall.

Doosan Babcock employees were given the opportunity to nominate the community organisations they most wanted to help to mark the second Doosan Day of Community Service.

In Tipton, the volunteers chose to help local schools such as the Christchurch Church of England (CoE) School as well as the West Bromwich YMCA.

The enthusiastic volunteers were put to work on a wide range of activities, including indoor painting for the nursery at West Bromwich YMCA and helping five-11 year olds at Christchurch CoE School to understand the concept of growing and caring for their own vegetables and helping to create a more vibrant and welcoming outdoor area.

They were also joined by more than 316 Doosan colleagues around the UK, who have today donated their time to support over 40 community projects in eight different regions up and down the country.

The inaugural Doosan Day of Community Service took place in October with a primary objective to raise awareness of corporate social responsibility among its 43,000 employees worldwide. The event saw around 10,000 Doosan staff in 13 countries taking part in a range of charity and community initiatives.

Critical care concern as hospitals at capacity

EVERY intensive care bed was full at hospitals across the West Midlands on a string of occasions over the last year.

Health trusts have to report the current situation on the last Thursday of each month.

And on 20 of those days, hospitals in the Black Country and Staffordshire had no critical care beds available.

It has sparked fears that seriously ill patients would not get the care they need.

The worst performing was Walsall's health trust, when beds were all full on nine of the 12 days they submitted figures.

Beds at Sandwell Hospital and City Hospital in Winson Green were all occupied on the Thursday in March 2014 but the situation has since improved, with the figure for the amount of occupied beds falling to 73.7 per cent in January this year. Critical care beds at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital were all occupied on six of the 12 days - including November, December and February this year.

All beds were used on one occasion at New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton in November, and for the subsequent three months it ranged from 92.9 per cent to 96.4 per cent.

The Royal College of Surgeons has warned that more than 82 per cent of beds being used can lead to an increased risk of infection.

Across England, there were 4,028 adult critical care beds available and 3,548 occupied during the February snapshot, giving an occupancy rate of 88.1 per cent.

That was the highest occupancy rate observed since publication of the figures began in August 2010. The occupancy rate in February 2014 was 86.5 per cent.

Dr Mark Porter, chairman of the British Medical Association council, said: "This is the result a gradual rundown of beds, despite a rise in demand. High occupancy rates are a real concern because they leave little or no spare capacity to deal with a spike in demand for critical care, leaving the most seriously ill patients at risk.

"Critical care facilities are essential for the most interventionist care delivered to the sickest patients. Professional recommendation would be that, to maintain availability for such patients and the safety of care when there, bed occupancy rates should be no more than 70 per cent. A higher figure indicates a service under too much pressure."

Daredevils jump at charity stunt

Megan Coley bungee jumping at the Red Admiral Pub, Great Barr to raise funds for Air Ambulance

DAREDEVIL fundraisers were flung from the sky at heights of 200ft as part of a bungee jump in aid of life-saving air ambulances.

Ten people took part in a bungee jump event in Great Barr, Birmingham to raise cash for the Midlands Air Ambulance.

It was organised by Austin Sahoonta, the landlord of the Red Admiral Pub.

Mr Sahoonta, aged 39, from Great Barr, said: "The occasion was unbelievable, with so many people turning up. Events like this keeps the community and pub alive.

"Myself and other residents wanted to raise money for the charity because we feel it is a deserving one. Air ambulance is close to many peoples hearts and has helped members of the community in the past."

Over 80 members turned up to show their support for the first-time jumpers, which included Mr Sahoonta.

The bungee jump was believed to be the highest standing in the UK. It towers at 200ft, which participants jump from in full body harnesses.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mailbox revamp ready for summer

A MULTI-MILLION pound revamp of Birmingham's Mailbox will be open from July.

The Harvey Nichols store will be among the highlights of the staged opening which culminates in plans for a celebration event in September.

A new roof, improved public areas and a facelift for the shops are among the projects to be carried out before the centre is relaunched. The Harvey Nichols store will double in size to 45,000 sq ft, with brands such as LK Bennett, Jaeger and Gieves and Hawkes committed to return.

Libraries mark big book night

LIBRARIES across Sandwell will be holding a series of events to celebrate this year's World Book Night.

The events are on April 23. Bleakhouse Library in Oldbury is hosting a book quiz and poetry reading with Gavin Young and Roz Goddard from 7pm. West Bromwich's Central Library is hosting a specially themed film club at 6.30pm and book givers will be in the library during the event. Tickets for the film cost £1.

Wednesbury Library is running a charity book quiz at 7pm, hosted by Comedy Dave. Entry is £2 per person.

CQC high praise for care home

A CARE home in West Bromwich has been praised following an inspection by the Care Quality Commission.

McClaren House in Bratt Street was rated as good in all areas. The CQC said residents were happy with the services provided, they felt safe and that staff understood their needs.

Inspectors said they 'observed people being treated with dignity and respect'. The care home was described as safe, effective, caring, responsive and well-led.

Passenger taken ill sparks delays

Rail travellers faced delays after a passenger collapsed at a station in Walsall. A train was temporarily stopped after the man took ill on the platform at Bescot Stadium station.

London Midland spokesman Francis Thomas said the Wolverhampton to Walsall 12.20pm service was halted last Wednesday, blocking the line. The line was cleared by 2pm resulting in 15 minute delays. An ambulance spokesman said the man was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital for treatment.

M6 disruption due

THE M6 through the Black Country will be closed during bridge and carriageway works next week.

The southbound will be shut between junction 10 at Walsall and seven at Great Barr from April 20 for two nights. Restrictions will be in place between 10pm and 5am.

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IN MY VIEW
with Mark Andrews

Just let teachers do their actual job

THE National Union of Teachers wants to make it compulsory for all schools 'to portray gay and lesbian relationships in a positive light'. Their counterparts in the NAS/UWT want to ban energy drinks in schools, branding them as 'legal highs'. Wouldn't want to over egg the pudding, would we?

Then we come to the school in Yorkshire which banned packed lunches because it couldn't control what children were eating.

Yet despite this, these same teaching unions continue to tell us how overworked their members are.

Well, maybe if teachers were not asked to perform so many of these irrelevant extracurricular activities, they would have more time to focus on the actual teaching side of the profession. How about they leave the Lucozade, lunch boxes and sex chat to others, and just focus on reading, writing and arithmetic? It will never happen, of course, but it might mean that Britain would stop sliding down the international league tables. And the teachers might have a less onerous job to do.

❒❒❒❒❒

AND on the subject of the nanny state, why does one need to enter one's date of birth before accessing websites about beer and wine on the internet. Do they now believe that reading about beer can be harmful to your health, some kind of passive drinking, perhaps? I don't suppose it crossed anybody's mind that the average 16-year-old who wants to read about Foster's lager might be sufficiently cunning to enter a false date of birth?

❒❒❒❒❒

TONY Blair says he has no plans to retire from public life, and fully expects to still be working at the age of 91, like former Israeli president Shimon Perez.

Music to the ears of us all, wouldn't you agree? Another 29 years of the silver-haired colossus strutting the world stage like a rock star of the political and diplomatic sphere.

More than that, the former prime minister wants to create a "cadre" of battle-hardened former leaders to advise governments around the world, a sort of Brains Trust of international statesmen. Who knows, we could have George W Bush providing the benefit of his experience in international diplomacy, Silvio Berlusconi offering tips on how to retain dignity in office. What's not to like?

But Tony, I'm worried you might be stretching yourself too thinly. We all admire your indefatigability, and sense of public service, but really you have done enough. You left us a legacy of never-ending prosperity, brought peace to the Middle East, and shunned material gain and personal vanity, and we're all very grateful. But you deserve a break, a bit of 'me' time. Trust me, the public will understand.

Sam Greatrex with ex-world cycling champion Hugh Porter

Sam and his crew during the record-breaking challenge

Cancer survivor Sam during his rowing challenge

Oars well that ends well as Sam laps it up

A cancer survivor was part of a team that broke a rowing record during an epic challenge. **HEATHER LARGE** reports

CANCER survivor Sam Greatrex has rowed his way into the record books during an epic charity challenge.

Sam, from Halesowen, was among a team of adventurers who recorded the fastest-ever Atlantic Ocean row – smashing three world records in the process.

The five-strong team completed the 3,800 nautical-mile journey in 51 days, beating the previous record by 20 days.

The 30-year-old, from Manor Way, organised the row as part of a series of challenges, called Lap the World, in a bid to raise £240,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The ocean row was the second phase of the challenge following a 1,700-mile cycle through Southern France, Spain and to the western edge of Europe at Lagos, in Portugal.

From there the ocean row crew set out on its epic journey to Venezuela living on a diet of dehydrated meals, chocolate bars and beef jerky.

Tiredness

But Sam said it was the parts of the journey which they could not prepare for which had been the worst.

"I don't want to be crude about it but one of the hardest parts of the journey was the sores which we all had on our backsides," he said.

"There was still 2,000 miles to go and it was very uncomfortable and difficult to row. Out of everything, even the muscular pain and tiredness, I think the sores were the worst."

Sam said he had been focusing on getting ready for the rowing part of the challenge as he knew it would be the most physically demanding. "With the cycling you can stop by the roadside, take a break or even stop for a quick sleep," he said.

"In the boat that was not possible. We had rowing shifts of two hours followed by a couple of hours rest and then back to the rowing. You have to keep going.

"It was very challenging for all of us but well worth it. To smash the records was just the icing on the cake and I am extremely proud of the achievement."

Sam Greatrex pictured with the boat used during the epic fundraiser

The crew also included Ralph Tuijn, Tara Adams, Nick Sen and Jim Alsford. The team spent the challenge in a 28ft boat, shared every meal and rowed for 12 hours a day.

Alongside being the fastest rowers, the team have also made the Guinness Book of World Records as Tara is the first female to row from mainland Europe to mainland South America and Nick is the youngest person to row this particular route.

But their success was nearly sunk after a member of the team was forced to pull out at the last-minute.

It was only a quick reply from experienced ocean rower Ralph Tuijn agreeing to take part which saved the challenge. Sam said: "The crew member who pulled out was our experienced member so we had to find someone quickly.

"We could not have asked for better than Ralph. He was absolutely brilliant."

Macmillan Cancer Support is a deeply personal cause for the intrepid fundraiser who, at the age of 10, was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkin lymphoma.

He underwent successful chemotherapy at Birmingham Children's Hospital and was helped through his treatment and recovery by Macmillan nurse Moira Bradwell.

Sam said she had been 'an inspiration' and he had continued to see her regularly for check-ups for the next 17 years.

And while Moira has now retired, they still keep in contact up to the present day.

He said: "After the initial treatment, I was fortunate my cancer treatment was working and was in remission. Moira was there for me for many years after the diagnosis and it was brilliant to be able to talk to her. She was really inspirational.

"Moira has retired now but we still keep in contact and chat every so often. That is why I wanted to do something like this to raise funds for the charity. It is an opportunity to give something back."

He has spent the last three years preparing for the charity challenge – getting himself to the peak of fitness with a gruelling fitness regime including bike rides on the Clent Hills to improve his physical fitness and stamina.

He is now back in Halesowen preparing for the next phase of the challenge. He will be cycling from the East Coast to the West Coast of South America.

The journey of around 2,500 miles will take him through the Amazon to the Andes Mountains and a climb to 4,000m altitude and he is due to set off in around eight weeks.

Records

At the moment he is working for Macmillan in London as part of the charity's fundraising team, splitting his time between the capital and his home town.

"By breaking three world records we've achieved something great, and I hope to continue raising money for Macmillan Cancer Support, it just might be on land, rather than sea," he said.

Sam, who is single, said his parents, Sue and Barry, had been hugely supportive of his fundraising efforts.

"Everyone has been absolutely brilliant and I want to thank everyone for their support."

Sam said following his treatment his cancer had gone into remission.

He added although he had been preparing for the challenge for three years he had first come up with the idea five years ago.

The challenge started out in Paris as French authorities prohibit any rowing or kayaking across the English Channel, but after leaving Birmingham the team cycled down to the south coast via London.

He said if £240,000 could be raised it would be enough to build a new chemotherapy suite in a hospital.

To sponsor Sam in the next phase of his challenge visit www.laptheworld.com

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Short-sighted views on hauliers

ALTHOUGH I agree with reader A Parker's views on HS2 (as featured in the Express & Star, edition dated April 6), I do find his opinions on road haulage a little on the short-sighted side.

Firstly, we do not have the railway capacity to take any more goods traffic.

The rail system is already overburdened with passenger traffic.

We all know (especially those individuals who work and who have worked in road transport) how much the costs of vehicles, fuel, taxation, insurance and drivers' wages have accelerated over the last few years, not to mention bearing in mind the unreasonable laws as laid down by out masters in the EU.

It's been tried before and failed.

The only way for certain and on time movement of goods from A to B is by road transport.

The big question is – when did you, or any of us, last see a train pulling into a supermarket?

M SAXON
Tipton

Borough's as big as their rivals

I FELT I had to sit down and put pen to paper in reply to the highly amusing letter from D Baggott on 'Sandwell Borough'.

He of course refers to West Bromwich Albion football club who have enjoyed a good run in the Premiership, a league which 'bigger' club Wolves struggled to cope with and indeed ended up sinking to the depths of League One!

On the relative subjects of fans and stadia, a rational person would suggest that both Black Country clubs are on a par with each other.

On the subject of Afobe and Sako the reality is simple; if Wolves don't get promoted this season then if clubs like Albion and Villa want them they will indeed get them!

I would suggest D Baggot is one of many Wolverhampton Wanderers fans who might still be hurting from the 5-1 Molineux massacre which took place against the Baggies from their last short-lived stay in the top flight!

J PLATTEN
Tipton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

POST
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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Oil's well for future despite the moaners

YES the latest news is that billions of barrels of oil are lying underground in the south east waiting to be pumped up to the benefit of all in this country saving us billions of pounds on imports, is wonderful news so you might say.

Let's get pumping, then everyone in this country will reap the benefits of cheaper fuel, but whoah! Hold it, here come the objectors already...

A woman in a smallholding with two ponies in a field miles away from the nodding donkey that brings it to the surface has been on TV moaning it is unsightly.

It's all very well thinking about the environment but these people that protest most of them want the benefits of cheaper living but don't want the development in their area.

Well sorry, but this is Great Britain a green and pleasant land, yes, for those that live in the countryside, but the majority of us live in industrial towns and cities and know that this country needs all the help we can get, be it from oil, coal, gas, from fracking, wind turbines.

I don't think it will upset the wildlife of this country, they don't have cars or central heating, they will carry on as normal, while in the future, when we the human race go into extinction, the animals will wonder what was all the fuss about.

J WHEELER
Wednesbury

WBA, leave Afobe alone

I AM sick and tired of seeing that Sandwell Borough are targeting Benik Afobe as well as Bakary Sako. Now me and a great other Wolves supporters are not going to stand for this. We need to keep these two players if we have any chance of getting into the Premier League.

Wolves are a bigger club than Sandwell Borough, we have a better stadium, better fans and better facilities. Now I hope for our club's sake that we do not let these two players leave to join Sandwell as I for one will never pay to see Wolves play again.

Now I love the club but I want to see Wolves playing the likes of Liverpool, Arsenal and Manchester City – if we sell our best players this will never happen and Wolves fans deserve to be watching their club in the Premier League.

D BAGGOTT
Pelsall

Annoyed at SNP leader

I AM RATHER annoyed with the comments of the Scottish Nationalist Party's Nicola Sturgeon.

I would remind her that she had a referendum in Scotland and lost it. So what makes her think that she has the right to try to dictate to the rest of the United Kingdom just what they can and cannot do?

Nicola not even the majority of your own people in Scotland supported you. Your actions remind me of that old saying 'Hell knows no fury like a woman scorned'.

E J JOHNSON
Warley

Faulty breaks on van led to driver crash tragedy

A DELIVERY driver who was killed in a crash with a police car at a crossroads was driving a van with faulty brakes, an inquest has heard.

Ajay Sagar became trapped under his Mercedes Sprinter after he was thrown from the van on impact with the marked Ford S Max in Coseley. The 29-year-old, of Ryddon Square, Hill Top, West Bromwich, died at the scene despite the efforts of paramedics and passers-by.

An investigation found defects on the van's brakes, which experts said were a major contributory factor to the crash.

It is also believed Mr Sagar was not wearing a seatbelt. The officer who was driving the police car, Pc Dean Meese, was a witness at Mr Sagar's inquest at Smethwick Council House on Monday. He said he was returning home at around 11am on October 21 along Central Drive when he approached the crossroads where Bridge Street meets Martin Street.

He said became aware of the white Mercedes Sprinter van driven by Mr Agar, coming from Bridge Street. Pc Meese said he did not stop immediately as he had right of way, but seeing the van was not slowing, braked hard, but was unable to avoid the collision.

Investigators said they did not believe Mr Sagar was speeding as a GPS tracker showed he was travelling at 22mph. Pc Meese said: "I knew impact was inevitable. I resigned myself to the fact I was probably going to die."

Mr Sagar had worked as a delivery driver for around three months for West Bromwich-based company Munchies, delivering sandwiches. His wife of five years Sheweta Sagar described him as a 'really good man'. Senior Black Country coroner Zafar Saddique recorded a verdict of death by road traffic collision.

Cafe set for bake-off bid with contest

A COMPETITION inspired by the Great British Bake Off will be staged at a cafe in the Black Country.

The event will return to Bearwood after the success of last year's contest.

This year, it is hosted by Coffee Junction in Three Shires Oak Road and organised by Khakan Qureshi. The event takes place on May 9 from 3pm to 5pm.

Mr Qureshi said: "We are very excited to bring the bake off to Bearwood and hope to have a great response as we think it's just what Bearwood needs. It is free to enter and there are prizes to be won. So we look forward to hearing from all budding bakers."

This time there are two categories under 12s and over 12s.

Entrants need to bake a cake and take it along to the venue, where it will be judges. Application forms are available at the cafe or from khakanqureshi@gmail.com

Sweet help for heroes with £65

Daniella Wood, who runs a sweet shop van with Harvey Dulay owner of Global Foods in Smethwick, who is drawing the raffle

FUNDRAISERS were real sweeties when they helped a college student raise £65 for Help for Heroes.

Daniella Wood, 17, of Alexander Road, Smethwick runs a mobile sweet shop and decided to hold an Easter raffle to raise money for the charity, which helps British servicemen and women who have been wounded or injured in the line of duty. Participants had the chance to win one of three prizes with an Easter theme. The raffle was held while the van was parked outside Global wines in Abbey Road, Smethwick.

The Sandwell College student decided to hold the event for Help for Heroes because her grandfather Keith Wood served in the Warwickshire regiment in the army during the 1950s when he was based in Aden, Hong Kong and Germany.

Her brother had also recently held a car wash to raise money for the charity. She set up her business because she wanted more experience of running her own company as her eventual aim is to become an entrepreneur.

She sells a variety of sweets including pick'n'mix and herbal tablets while she is also branching out into ice cream. Her mobile van can often be seen selling sweets at fairs, car showrooms, wedding parties and other events, while she is also available for birthday parties.

Celebrating small firms' top trading

A MARKET day celebrating independent traders is being held in Bearwood.

The Mad as a Hatter Market Day began in May 2014 and is now held on the first Saturday of every month in Abbey Road.

It is organised by Sarah Dibb and Hayley Hughes, who runs the Mad as a Hatter tea room in Abbey Road.

Sarah said: "We realised there was a lack of footfall in the Abbey Road area and Hayley realised there were a lot of local crafters that would benefit from an event like this.

"It really took off.

"There are stalls on either side of Abbey Road from Global Wines right up to the corner of Katherine Road.

"There are a wide variety of crafters, selling handcrafted and unique gifts and treats."

Stalls include jams, chutneys, candles, jewellery, and framed artwork made from buttons.

Sarah added: "The market is going from strength to strength and has brought a community spirit back to Bearwood.

"There is a lovely atmosphere, all of the stall holders are very friendly and welcoming.

"There is a real 'Mad Hatter' feel."

Guest speaker set to tell her B&B tales

THE next guest speaker at a Wordsley Townswomen's Guild meeting is Rosemary Prosser, on Monday.

Following her retirement as a woman police officer with West Mercia Police in the 1970s, she decided to start a farmhouse bed and breakfast. The event takes place at Wordsley Green Community Centre at 10am. All visitors are welcome with admission costing £2.50 which includes refreshments.

Radio dedication surprise for Nicola

UB40 members Ali Campbell and Astro seen during their visit to Compton Hospice, with fan Nicola Moore

UB40 dedicated one of their classic tunes to terminal cancer patient Nicola Moore, just a day after they made her dying wish come true with a surprise visit.

The band played a number of old and new songs on the Chris Evans show on BBC Radio 2, hosted by Sara Cox, dedicating 'Red Red Wine' to Nicola and Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Two months ago 32-year-old Nicola, who is mother to 12-year-old Chloe and 19-month-old Shyann, was diagnosed with cervical cancer. After a dose of radiation treatment, just weeks ago she received the devastatomg news her cancer was terminal. With the help of Compton Hospice's PR and marketing officer Grace Ruston, Nicola, from Wordsley, posted her bucket list wish to meet UB40 on Facebook on Wednesday afternoon.

Just 24 hours later, band members Ali Campbell and Astro turned up to meet a Nicola.

During the radio show frontman Ali said: "There is a lovely bunch of people up there (at Compton Hospice) and we will be dedicating the last song to them, and to Nicola especially."

Host Sara added they all send Nicola 'loads of love'.

Swim pool saved in deal

A POPULAR swimming pool in Great Barr will be run by a private company after city council bosses struck a 15 year deal.

Beeches Pool and fitness centre, in Beeches Road, will be managed by Serco, which runs some rubbish collection services in Sandwell.

More than 3,000 people had signed a petition to save the venue after it had been threatened with the axe by Birmingham City Council.

Serco will come on board and manage Beeches Pool alongside others, including Wyndley Leisure Centre in Sutton Coldfield and new builds in Ladywood and Erdington.

Beeches Pool and Leisure Centre is also home to Perry Beeches Swimming Club.

Birmingham City Council's assistant director for sport and events, Steve Hollingworth explained: "Despite the considerable budgetary restraints that we face, Serco's appointment will help us ensure that we can continue to support and encourage people to be active and enjoy a healthy lifestyle."

The council's deputy leader, Councillor Ian Ward, previously said the deal will help safeguarding the future of the baths.

It had faced an uncertain future as part of controversial cost-cutting plans by Birmingham City Council to shake up its services.

But residents had fought to save the popular centre in Beeches Road, which is used by families in Sandwell and Walsall as well as by a large number of schools for swimming lessons.

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Backlog of checks could take six months to clear

POLICE chiefs have said they believe a backlog of criminal record checks preventing people from moving into work could take six months to clear.

More than 4,000 people have been left waiting too long to start work in key posts such as teachers, doctors and foster carers in the West Midlands while their criminal record checks are being carried out by West Midlands Police.

The target for turning around the applications is 60 days, set by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS). The service is funded by the Home Office and works with all of the country's police forces to help employers to avoid recruiting unsuitable people to work with vulnerable groups, including children.

Senior members of West Midlands Police discussed the challenge of working through the current back log and improving the efficiency of security checks in the future with Police and Crime Commissioner David Jamieson during a meeting on Tuesday morning.

Chief constable Chris Sims said: "This has been a serious issue for a number of months. We have been looking for any sort of short term measures to get a quick improvement on these figures but this is a more complicated issue than that. I anticipate it will take in the region of six months before we are back to the position we want to be."

The rise in the delay of completion of checks has led to an increase in complaints that required three members of staff to respond to up to 100 enquiries daily, further hindering productivity.

There have been three claims for compensation in the last year, however West Midlands Police has returned two to the DBS which are in dispute and one has been passed to the force's legal services to progress.

Doctor retires after 40 years

Dr Albert Benjamin retires from Little London Surgery after 40 years in the NHS

A DOCTOR at a surgery in Walsall has hung up his stethoscope following a 40-year career in medicine – with not a single sick day to his name. Dr Albert Benjamin, who joined Little London Surgery in Caldmore in 1992, has helped thousands of patients. And he still intends to carry out minor surgery at local GP practices in retirement.

The 64-year-old was born and raised in Freetown, Sierra Leone, in West Africa, and came to the UK in 1969 to study medicine at Cambridge University, qualifying in 1975. He trained as a surgeon and began to practise trauma and orthopaedic surgery in Edinburgh and hospitals in the Midlands.

The father-of-three then stepped into a GP role at the Little London Surgery. His colleagues and patients have showered him with gifts of books, chocolates and cards to mark his retirement.

Dr Benjamin, of Solihull, said: "I've been enormously privileged to be a doctor. You learn a lot about yourself. I've been extremely lucky not to have had one sick day in my career in the NHS. I will miss the staff and the patients.

"I'm hoping retirement gives me the time and space to concentrate on community-based surgery, such as vasectomies, skin surgery and injections of joints. Hopefully, I will also write a couple of books and get involved in charity work regarding Ebola. My sister Olivette Buck was a doctor out there and died of it last year."

Dr Benjamin is married to Juliana, a lecturer in nursing at Birmingham City University.

Skydive boost for air ambulance cause

Kathryn Williamson and Jack Edmonds, who took part in a skydive to help the air ambulance charity

TWO members of the Midlands office of national audit, tax and advisory firm Crowe Clark Whitehill, in Oldbury, have completed a skydive for charity.

At the second attempt on Saturday– weather conditions were not right first time round – Kathryn Williamson, marketing assistant, and Jack Edmonds, trainee chartered accountant stepped out of an aircraft in tandem, with instructors at 10,000ft.

They have raised £2,137.50 for Midlands Air Ambulance Charity; the office's nominated charity for this year. "It was a great experience and a real thrill," said Kathryn, who lives in Oldbury. Jack, from Halesowen, added: "We would like to thank everyone who contributed so generously to backing us."

Johnathan Dudley, Midlands managing partner of Crowe Clark Whitehill, congratulated the pair. "This was an extremely brave thing to do and I am very proud of Kathryn and Jack for going the extra mile to give our fund-raising such a massive boost," he said. The event took place at Tilstock Airfield, near Whitchurch, Shropshire.

Crash noise shock for couple as rider hurt

RESIDENTS have described hearing a 'terrific bang' after a motorcyclist collided with a taxi in a hit and run accident and then slid into a parked car, suffering a broken ankle.

The homeowners in Springfield Lane, Rowley Regis were woken at 5am on Saturday by the sound of a car revving its engine then a loud bang.

This was followed by the anguished cries of the motorcyclist after the bike crashed into the parked Toyota Yaris causing dents to the front bumper. However, the driver of the silver-coloured cab failed to stop following the collision.

Diana Mannino, aged 58, who owns the Yaris, said she was sleeping at the back of the house when the accident happened, but was awoken by the noise of the crash although she initially thought the sound had come from next door.

She noticed her security light had come on and when she went to see what was happening there was a large group of people already gathered in the road tending to the man laying in front of her car, who she believed was in his late teens.

By Dominic Bareham

Mrs Mannino, who lives with her husband Lorenzo, 66, said: "We were in bed asleep and we were awoken by the noise. It was a terrific bang and I initially thought it had come from my neighbours."

She believed the taxi had come out of Ambell Close on the opposite side of the road, but the driver had apparently failed to notice the bike coming down the road from the B1471 Dudley Road junction and struck the left side of the motorcycle causing the rider to suffer the broken left ankle before hitting the Yaris.

Police are appealing for anyone with information in relation to the taxi driver to call Sandwell police on 101.

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Flu fighter Stuart wins accolade for his efforts

STAFF Nurse Stuart Young is something of a legend at Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust, for he has just won a national title – Flu Champion 2015.

He received the accolade for his outstanding efforts in educating and influencing 1,139 colleagues to have their flu jab.

Stuart's success came from a combination of hard work, dedication and commitment.

He was willing to work irregular hours, including weekends, evenings and early mornings to get the message out. He was also the first nurse to undertake mobile vaccination clinics, visiting community sites in an ambulance on a two-weekly basis, enabling community-based staff to get vaccinated sooner. Not content with engaging with staff face-to-face on multi-sites, Stuart also utilised social media as an effective channel to distribute messages and raise awareness.

Humble

He sent over 900 tweets of messages about the flu programme to educate employees and followers, as well as tweeting senior national nursing figures, including asking Jeremy Hunt if he'd had his flu jab to which he responded 'Yes'.

Speaking about his achievement, Stuart said: "I feel very humble and proud to have been given this award. During the 'flu fighter' campaign, my main aim was to utilise social media as well as face-to-face conversations to highlight the importance of front line staff getting vaccinated, and the importance of herd immunity. I also had the opportunity to highlight our campaign to the Mayor of Sandwell.

"I believe that we all work to make lives better for our patients and a key way to do that is to remain healthy and immunised ourselves."

Apart from helping the trust to run the flu fighting campaign successfully, Stuart also works as a staff nurse in the Emergency Department, AMU1 and AMU2 at City Hospital, Birmingham. Although often working under high pressure, Stuart always finds the job rewarding. He enjoys demonstrating care, compassion and kindness as well as utilising his nursing skills to help patients through their healthcare journey, knowing that he can make a positive experience to people's lives.

Reflecting on the work that he has been carrying out with the occupational health and wellbeing team and the emergency department, Stuart feels that his job gives him the opportunity to try different things each day as he gets to promote the flu fighting campaign but also to help patients with different medical conditions.

He also appreciates the tremendous support from his colleagues. Thinking about his next challenge, Stuart is now focusing on helping more staff to get protected from flu in the winter 2015/16. He is conscious that by helping his colleagues at the Trust get flu jabs, he will also help them to protect their patients.

Stuart's hero is Andrea Spyropoulos, who was president of the Royal College of Nursing (2010 - 2014). Her dedication to the nursing profession, the patients and their relatives has been a true inspiration to him.

Stuart is now living in Solihull. In his spare time, Stuart enjoys reading books, taking a walk or going to the theatre. He also actively engages with the Royal College of Nursing where he is the secretary of the South Birmingham Branch. He organises Local Learning Events for members to update their skills and ensure they all have CPD (Continual Professional Development) opportunities.

NHS HEROES

ONCE again we focus some of our time on the quiet heroes of the NHS, from a wide variety of backgrounds doing a wide variety of jobs.

Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the Black Country's largest NHS organisations.

It employs 7,500 people, many of whom live locally.

Last year, the trust provides care from 150 locations.

This week we highlight:
STUART YOUNG
Staff Nurse

Bearing up for display to create new tourist trail

IT'S time to take a walk on the wild side.

Thirty 3ft bear sculptures could soon be popping up in Bearwood to form a new tourist trail.

Residents will also be invited to place their own smaller cardboard cubs in the gardens and windows of their homes. The Bearwood bears are hot on the heels on Liverpool's superlambananas, London's eye-catching elephants and the giant wolf sculptures soon set to be prowling the streets of Wolverhampton.

The grizzlies will be hidden around the town in a bid to capture people's imaginations and bring in the tourists. It is the brainchild of community group We Are Bearwood, which hopes to encourage the whole town to join in the fun.

The wooden bear sculptures will be decorated before being hidden in the area and a map drawn up for people to follow. Each sculpture will be given a necklace with a historical fact about Bearwood written on the pendant.

We Are Bearwood has received cash from the Big Lottery Fund to get the scheme off the ground. The bears would each be decorated by schools, toddler groups, faith groups, local history societies, exercise classes, residential care homes and businesses.

We Are Bearwood has received £5,800 to create the bear trail, which will include several greeting visitors to Warley Woods.

Project champion, Anya Sanchez said: "We will create 30 wooden, three dimensional bears that stand one metre tall and we will get local groups to decorate them. They can paint handprints on it, stick pictures of bygone Bearwood on it, dress their bear in clothes or decorate it in any way they choose. We will then hide the bears on a trail around Bearwood and create a map for people to follow and find the bears."

Berlin bears already proving popular

A Bearwood bear prototype

One of Liverpool's superlambananas

Wolverhampton's wolves trail

The bear trail walk will take about 45 minutes but a shorter version will also be available. Maps will be available from the group's website.

As part of the project, the group will make smaller, cardboard versions of the bears called cubs so people can decorate and make their own bear and display it in their garden or window.

Anyone interested in taking part can collect their cub from Corks Club on Saturday, May 23 at 1.30pm or 3pm or Thimblemill Library on the Sunday at 1.30pm or 4.30pm.

An appeal has also been made for

Hospital is target for volunteers

A TEAM of volunteers from an Oldbury firm has taken time out of their work schedules to help out at Birmingham Children's Hospital.

They have been lending a hand at Ronald McDonald House Birmingham, which provides free 'home away from home' accommodation and support for families with children being treated at the hospital.

Twenty-four employees from the npower's's Solihull and Oldbury hub spent the day helping to spring clean the house before holding an afternoon tea party for the children and their families.

House manager Libby Aston said: "Providing a 'home away from home' for as many as 66 families each night is no small job and any help and support from local people and businesses is always welcome."

Old station in home scheme

A FORMER police station in Oldbury will be converted into a four-bedroom house.

The station in Perry Hill Road, Oldbury, closed in 2013 as part of cost-cutting measures by West Midlands Police and has since remained vacant.

Applicant Hazhar Iqbal has been given permission for the project by Sandwell Council. The former station had been used for residential housing before it opened in 1998.

FOCUS ON OLDBURY

Group's award for Dreams over its safety standards

BED specialist, Dreams Ltd, of Oldbury, has received a British Safety Council International Award for protecting its employees from the risk of injury and ill health at work

BY DAVID BANNER

The site based in the Black Country town, known as the Dreams Bed Factory, has won an International Safety Award from the British Safety Council in recognition of its commitment to keeping its workers and workplaces healthy and safe during the 2014 calendar year.

Opened in 2006, the Dreams Bed Factory employs 177 staff and is located on Granada Trading Estate.

Now in their 57th year, the International Safety Awards seek to celebrate and promote the success of the winning organisations and their employees in maintaining a safe and healthy working environment. They are open to businesses, public and third sector bodies of all sizes and sectors.

The 2015 award winners have demonstrated to the satisfaction of the scheme's independent judges their commitment to preventing workplace injuries and work-related ill health.

More than 500 organisations won an International Safety Award for 2015, and the winning organisations span all sectors and range from the United Kingdom, Africa, Asia, mainland Europe, the Middle East and the West Indies.

Neal Stone, acting Chief Executive of the British Safety Council, congratulated the Dreams Bed Factory on its success. "On behalf of the Trustees and staff of the British Safety Council we warmly congratulate the Dreams Bed Factory and its employees.

"Winning organisations recognise that proportionate and sensible management of occupational health and safety risks brings real benefits to the organisation, its people and society."

Alongside all the other winning organisations, Dreams Ltd will be presented the award at a Gala Dinner at the Grosvenor House Hotel, London, on Friday 24 April 2015. The event will be hosted by the broadcaster and journalist Louise Minchin.

Chinu, centre, with his latest trophy after winning the English Championships in Bolton

Chinu gets to grips as new champ

A WRESTLING champion from Oldbury is celebrating after adding another title to his long list of achievements.

Olympic freestyle grappler Chinu, aged 27, from Oldbury is seven times British Champion and represented England at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow last year coming back with a bronze medal in the 125kg super heavyweight category.

His latest achievement has seen him win the 2015 English Championship in 125kg freestyle at Smithill Sports Centre, Bolton.

Chinu was up against six other wrestlers and fought three matches without losing a point to anyone throughout the tournament.

The athlete who trains at Fearless Mixed Martial Arts Gym in the Jewellery Quarter, Birmingham which hosts a freestyle wrestling club, also won the English Championship last year.

Connexions in move to council HQ

SANDWELL'S Connexions team, which gives careers advice to young people, has moved to the One Stop Shop at Sandwell Council House in Oldbury.

Connexions Sandwell provides free and impartial careers advice, information and guidance for young people aged from 14 to 19, or up to 25 if the young person has a learning difficulty and/or disability.

This service has moved from its previous West Bromwich offices. Connexions staff will continue to work alongside other local services to support young people's learning - whether in school, further education colleges, apprenticeships, training or other community settings.

Visit the Connexions Sandwell website or call 0845 352 0055 for further information.

Fat pets are on the rise

A VETERINARY firm has warned of the rise in overweight pets. Across its three West Midlands' practices White Cross Vets saw more than 1,050 overweight pets last year.

Bonnie Leibowitch, of the Tividale base, said: "Despite owners acknowledging the problem, many don't really understand the importance of addressing it straight away."

Research by the PDSA recently revealed one in three dogs and one in four of cats are overweight in the UK.

Recycle your rubbish for a chance to win vouchers

How do you fancy winning shopping vouchers for using your blue lid recycling bin?

Everyone in Sandwell who uses their blue lid recycling bin has a chance to win up to £100 of shopping vouchers with our new Picture BINgo game, starting later this month.

Following last year's food waste BINgo, the new competition focuses on items you can recycle in your blue lid bin.

The idea is to encourage people to use their recycling bin and think more about the household waste we can all recycle.

We know people use their blue lid bins but sometimes they put in items that can't be recycled. We hope the new Picture BINgo game will highlight the range and types of items that can be recycled such as:

- plastic bottles
- glass bottles and jars
- empty aerosols, foil trays,
- empty cleaning product bottles
- plastic punnets
- cans and tins
- paper and cardboard.

So, if you live in Sandwell and you have wheelie bins, look out for your Picture BINgo card which will be stuck to your bin some time between April 13-27. The game starts the week beginning April 27 and it runs for 12 weeks.

Mascot – Captain Recyco

Eyes down for a full house – or should that be an empty one? Get ready for Picture BINgo.

Each BINgo card has 15 pictures of items you can recycle in your blue lid bin.

Every week we'll release a picture of one of these items on our website, on Facebook and Twitter, in the local press, by email, phone and text.

If the item in the picture is also on your card, you can mark it off.

If you match four pictures, you win a £20 shopping voucher. For eight matching pictures, you'll get a £50 voucher and the top prize of a £100 voucher for matching 12 items.

So please look out for your Picture BINgo card which will be stuck on your bin over the next few weeks, and tick off those pictures for a chance to win. Good luck.

Jason Holtom, partnership director for Serco said: "Residents told us what they liked about the BINgo scheme from last year and we've tried to go one better and improve it with more prizes.

"There are also more ways to get involved and the easy picture theme which will help residents recycle more as they play."

The money for the scheme, which aims to increase Sandwell's recycling rate, has come from the Department for Communities and Local Government. The scheme is run by Sandwell Council and waste partner Serco.

The game is free to play and players must be aged 18 or over, must live in Sandwell and must be using the council's blue lid recycling service. The scheme does not include flats.

Winners will receive prizes provided they have been using their recycling blue lid bin correctly before prizes are issued.

An enquiry line – 0121 569 6884 – will be open from 9am to 4pm, Monday to Friday, from Monday 27 April onwards – you'll need to call this number if you win to claim your prize.

For more information about Picture BINgo go to the website at www.sandwell.gov.uk/bingo

- To see the BINgo picture each week, like us on Facebook – search for "Sandwell" or go to the website www.facebook.com/sandwellcouncil and follow on Twitter @sandwellcouncil

Match pictures in the game to win up to £100 in vouchers

The Ramrods, a band known as The Beatles of Bilston

Keith's father Issac Parton, left, with a workmate in Bilston

Keith with his sisters Jan and Vicky on Topper the horse

The front cover of Keith Parton's book about growing up in Bilston

Author hopes new book will be a lasting legacy

MEMORY LANE

Report by Nigel Slater

'IF I die tomorrow then at least I go knowing I've published my own book and left a legacy for the town'.

So says Bilston resident Keith Parton who has penned a new book about his life growing up in the town after the Second World War.

'Living in God's Country – The Bilston Years' tells of the 69-year-old's 'golden days' growing up in the town and how he coped with the transition from youth to adulthood.

The 100-page book, which has been published by Wolverhampton firm Hughes Print, features anecdotes, pictures and poems. Keith spent his childhood days living in the Stowlawn estate and among memories are tales of camping in Bilston Wood, using his first pedal car and watching with laughter as people fished golf balls over-hit from Bilston Golf Club out of the pool on Prouds Lane.

From getting the cane at school to learning how to play dominoes with his father Isaac, to his first trip to the pub and evenings spent following local band the Ramrods – who he calls 'The Beatles of Bilston'.

This is the first time Mr Parton has ventured into the world of publishing and he said the book was not about making money – it was about telling the community his story.

"There's a saying that there is a book for everyone and this is mine. It's an honest book written from the heart," he said. "This book means so much to me. I've always recalled having a good memory and I remember my childhood days like the back of my hand – they were the golden days. If I could turn the clock back and be a youngster again I would do it without a shadow of a doubt.

"I'm no writer by any stretch of the imagination but its been a challenge I've fully enjoyed. Hopefully others reading it will like the book and even help inspire them to write or share memories."

Also included are emotional tributes to his parents Pauline and Isaac, who he says made him the man he is today.

Keith said he suffers from insomia – so he made full use of the sleepless nights sitting on his desk writing up memories as though they happened yesterday.

He said: "I struggle to sleep at night and live on my own, so it got to the stage where I thought, I'm going to start writing some of my favourite memories down on paper. The more I got into it the more I wanted it to be published."

Keith has so far printed 100 copies of the book to sell. "The response I have had so far has been lovely," he added. "I'm so grateful to the team at Hughes Print for giving me the opportunity to publish this book."

Copies are £12. Call Mr Parton on 01902 620406 or Hughes Print on 01902 457261.

Keith Parton with his 'Living In God's Country' book

The author is on the right with his friend Chris Wordley

fast theticket

Musical Manford

– Page 19

Pun king

Tim Vine on stand-up tour - Page 19

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Texas

Sunday, 7.30pm
Symphony Hall, Birmingham
Texas celebrate their silver jubilee with new album Texas 25, reworking their best-known songs. Expect such hits as Black Eyed Boy, Summer Son and I Don't Want A Lover.
Visit www.thsh.co.uk

Milton Jones

Friday, 8pm, Civic Hall, Wolverhampton
Maverick master of the one-liner Milton Jones brings his Temple of Daft show to the city's premier concert venue. Expect bizarre jokes and even more bizarre hair.
Visit www.wolvescivic.co.uk

The Shires

Friday, 6pm (doors open), The Institute, Birmingham
One of the best new acts in country music are from the Home Counties. Crissie Rhodes and Ben Earle, as The Shires, are first UK signing on the revived Decca Nashville label.
See theinstitutebirmingham.com

Champions of Rock

Saturday, 7.30pm, Grand Theatre, Wolverhampton
The authoritative Queen concert show celebrates the 40th anniversary of Bohemian Rhapsody as Queen's biggest hit climaxes a celebration of the classic rock band led by Freddie Mercury.**See www.grandtheatre.co.uk**

POP & ROCK

Mainly Madness.
Friday at 7.30pm
£11 - £13
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

The Mersey Beatles
Friday at 7.30pm
£15 - £17.25
Prince Of Wales Centre, Cannock, WS11 1DE
Call 01543 578762

Echosmith
Wednesday at 7pm
Check for charges
O2 Academy, Birmingham, B1 1DB
Call 0121 622 8250

The Hollies in Concert
Friday at 7.30pm
£19.50 - £28.50
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
Call 0121 780 3333

CLASSICAL & OPERA

CBSO Mendelssohn's Midsummer
Saturday at 7pm
£12.50 - £44
Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1 2EA
Call 0121 780 3333

Borodin Quartet
Tuesday at 7.30pm
£9.50 - £35
Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ
Call 0121 780 3333

April Sings for Spring and Summer
Wednesday at 2.30pm
£6.50 - £21.50
Town Hall, Birmingham, B3 3DQ
Call 0121 780 3333

SKA/REGGAE

XOVA
Sunday at 8pm
Check for charges
Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath, B14 7JZ
Call 0844 870 0000

UB40 featuring Ali, Astro and Mickey
Friday at 8pm, £37.20
Barclaycard Arena, Birmingham, B1 2PZ
Call 0121 780 4141

GALLERIES & EXHIBITIONS

Darren Banks - The Raven
Friday, Sat, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG
Call 01922 654400

Ikon: Afternoon Tea
Sunday 2.30-4.30pm, £4
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham B1 2HS
Call 0121 248 0708

Wolverhampton: New Art West Midlands
Thurs, Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Birmingham: New Art West Midlands
Friday at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Spotlight Tour
Friday at 1pm - 1.15pm, Sun at 3pm - 3.15pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Birmingham, B1 2HS . Call 0121 248 0708

Soldier Stories
Friday at 10.30am - 5pm, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH
Call 0121 303 1966

Gods & Heroes
Sat, Sun 11am - 5pm, Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed 10am - 5pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Birmingham, B15 2TS
Call 0121 414 7333

Fantasy in Glass
Friday, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed at 12pm - 4pm, Free
Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford, DY6 9NS
Call 01384 812745

From out of the Gloom
Friday, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed at 12pm - 4pm, Free
Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford, DY6 9NS
Call 01384 812745

From Drab to Dream
Friday, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed at 12pm - 4pm, Free
Broadfield House Glass Museum, Kingswinford, DY6 9NS
Call 01384 812745

Resonance
Friday, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Free
The Museum Of Cannock Chase, Hednesford, WS12 1TD
Call 01543 877666

Pop in Space
Friday, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sat, Sun at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

Interlace
Friday at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Free
Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU.
Call 01902 552507

The Poetic Impossibility...
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed 10am - 5pm, Sat 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Current Situation
Friday, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sat at 10.30am - 4.30pm, Free
Wolverhampton Art Gallery, WV1 1DU. Call 01902 552055

The Closet Craftsman
Fri, Sat, Sun 11am - 6pm, Free
mac birmingham, Cannon Hill Park, B12 9QH
Call 0121 446 3232

Who Do You Think You Are? Live 2015
Friday, Sat at 9.30am - 5.30pm, £16 - £33
National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham B40 1NT
Call 0121 780 4141

On The Right Tracks
Friday, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed at 11am - 5pm, Free
Bantock House Museum, Wolverhampton, WV3 9LQ
Call 01902 552195

Bilston's Happy Housing
Friday at 10am - 1pm, Sat at 11am - 4pm, Tue at 10am - 4pm, Wed at 10am - 7pm. Free
Bilston Craft Gallery, WV14 7LU
Call 01902 552507

Found
Friday, Sat, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Sikander Pervez
Fri, Sat at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

The Clive Beardsmore Gift
Fri, Sat, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Sun at 12pm - 4pm, Free
The New Art Gallery Walsall, WS2 8LG. Call 01922 654400

Art From Elsewhere
Sat, Tue, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Friday at 10.30am - 5pm, Free
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, B3 3DH.
Call 0121 303 1966

Robert Groves
Friday, Sat, Sun, Tue, Wed at 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HS
Call 0121 248 0708

Nástio Mosquito
Fri, Sat, Sun 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS
Call 0121 248 0708

A K Dolven
Fri, Sat, Sun 11am - 6pm, Free
Ikon Gallery, Brindleyplace, B1 2HS. Call 0121 248 0708

Hidden Treasures Exhibition
Fri, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10.30am - 5.30pm, Sat at 10.30am - 5pm, Sun at 1pm - 5pm, Free
RBSA, Birmingham, B3 1SA
Call 0121 236 4353

Inheriting Rome
Sat, Sun at 11am - 5pm, Fri, Tues, Wed at 10am - 5pm, Free
Barber Institute of Fine Arts, Edgbaston, B15 2TS
Call 0121 414 7333

A Touch of Glass
Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, Tue, Wed at 10am - 4pm, Free
Red House Glass Cone, Stourbridge, DY8 4AZ
Call 01384 812750

ACOUSTIC

Crooked House
Monday at 9pm, £5.50
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE
Call 0121 643 5858

ROCK AND METAL

The Fabulous Bordellos
Saturday at 7.30pm, Free
Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston, DY8 3TB. Call 01384 374410

UFO
Sat at 7pm, £21.21
The Wulfrun, Wolverhampton, WV1 3HH. Call 01902 552106

The Solid Silver 60s Show
Friday at 7.30pm, £24.50 - £29
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

Champions of Rock
Sat at 7.30pm, £20.50 - £22.50
Wolverhampton Grand Theatre, WV1 1DE. Call 01902 573320

The Counterfeit Stones
Sat at 7.30pm, £13 - £21
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Curved Air feat Sonja Kristina
Sun at 7.30pm, £15 - £16
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Kyshera
Tue at 7.30pm, £7 - £8
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Ben Poole with his band
Wed at 7.30pm, £10 - £12
The Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ
Call 01902 401211

Ozzmosis the Ozzy Tribute
Sat at 7pm, £11
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Live Music
Friday, Sat at 8pm, £3 - £8
O'Neill's, Birmingham, B1 2HG
Call 0121 616 1623

Fire Red Empress
Friday at 7pm, £6.60
The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, WV1 1HP. Call 01902 552106

Texas
Sun at 7.30pm, £28.50 - £48.50
Symphony Hall, Broad Street, Birmingham, Birmingham, B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

THEATRE

HMS Pinafore
Friday at 7.30pm, £9 - £10
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN
Call 01902 572090

The Producers
Mon, Tue, Wed at 7.30pm, Wed at 2.30pm, £15 - £41.40
New Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham, B5 4DS
Call 0844 871 3011

Feed The Beast
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Mon, Wed at 7.45pm, Tue at 7pm, £12 - £20
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP
Call 0121 236 4455

First Stages - By The Riverbank
Sat at 11.30am, 2pm, 3.30pm, £2 - £9
Birmingham Repertory Theatre, B1 2EP
Call 0121 236 4455

Bouncers and Shakers
Fri, Sat at 7.45pm, Sat at 2.45pm, £10 - £11
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE.
Call 0121 643 5858

Hamlet
Fri, Sat at 7.30pm, £10.50
The Crescent Theatre, Birmingham, B16 8AE
Call 0121 643 5858

The Picture of Dorian Gray
Sat at 3pm, 7.30pm, £5 - £10
Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, WV1 1SE. Call 01902 321321

COUNTRY & FOLK

Sandpiper Folk Club Night
Wed at 7.45pm, £2
Pigot Arms, Pattingham WV6 7BQ
Call 01902 700207

Vin Garbutt
Sat at 7.30pm, £12.50
Newhampton Arts Centre, Wolverhampton, WV1 4AN
Call 01902 572090

JAZZ & BLUES

The Harp Live Jazz (April)
Sun at 12.30pm, Tue at 8.30pm, Free
The Harp Hotel, Albrighton, Wolverhampton, WV7 3JF
Call 01902 374381

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star

Tim Tim cheery with a fine Vine

Punmeister Tim Vine performs at the Symphony Hall as part of his first UK tour in four years next week

COMEDIAN Tim Vine has set out on his first stand-up tour in four years, including a gig at the Symphony Hall, Birmingham, on Wednesday (April 22).

The punslinger returns with lots of new jokes, silly songs and some twitchy dancing. He does warn that the show will contain wobbly props, a reference to a panda and a song about getting water in your ear when you go swimming. And those who can't make the Birmingham date get a second chance to catch Tim by travelling up the M54 for his Shrewsbury show at Theatre Severn on June 3.

It is shaping up to be a classic week for comedy with TV comedy panel regular Andy Parsons at the Wulfrun Hall, Wolverhampton, on Thursday (April 23) on his Live and Unleashed But Naturally Cautious Tour. Mock The Week's Stewart Francis promises to be Pun Gent when he plays the Wulfrun Hall on Friday, April 24.

That hair-raising master of the one liner, Milton Jones, brings his Temple of Daft show to Wolverhampton Civic Hall tomorrow (Friday). He returns to the region to play Oakengates Town Hall in Telford on June 4, Birmingham's Symphony Hall on June 5 and Dudley Town Hall on October 5.

First UK tour for Producers

"Ingredients for an hilarious night out"

TWO of Britain's best loved comedians, Jason Manford and Phill Jupitus, join forces in comedy musical The Producers, based on the outrageous Mel Brooks movie.

Add the unpredictable force of nature that is dance celebrity Louie Spence to the mix, then one has the ingredients for an hilarious night out when the show, helmed by acclaimed Top Hat director Matthew White, comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre.

Now on its first UK tour, the show that took Broadway and the West End by storm has won a record-breaking 12 Tony Awards and three Olivier Awards.

It tells the story impoverished New York producer Max Bialystock (played by Cory English, reprising his West End role) who recruits downtrodden accountant Leo Bloom (Manford) to help him pull off Broadway's greatest scam by over investing in a show that's intended to be a flop. Together they aim to produce the worst show in history and run away to Rio with millions, but then the musical written by a deranged Nazi Franz Liebkind (Phill Jupitus), Springtime For Hitler, turns out to be a hit.

Olivier Award winning actor David Bedella will play the flamboyant director Roger De Bris chosen by Max Bialystock in an attempt to ensure Springtime for Hitler is a flop. Renowned dancer, choreographer and television personality Spence plays his equally flamboyant assistant Carmen Ghia.

The Producers will be goosestepping its stuff at the Alex from Monday to Saturday.

City venues stage Classical concerts

RENOWNED pianist Cédric Tiberghien joins Edward Gardner and the CBSO for a celebration of some of Felix Mendelssohn's best-loved works at the Symphony Hall in Birmingham.

They will perform two concerts together, today (Thursday) at 2.15pm, and an evening concert on Saturday from 7pm.

The Anglo-Welsh Canoldir Choir return to Birmingham Town Hall on Saturday at 7pm. Russia's Borodin Quartet perform works by Shostakovich and Beethoven at the Town Hall on Tuesday, 7.30pm.

Soprano April Fredrick and Orchestra of the Swan perform on Wednesday at 2.30pm at Birmingham Town Hall.

Ant music as Adam makes 80s return

SOUTH Carolina outfit Heyrocco bring their infectious grunge-pop to the Rainbow in Digbeth on Sunday as support for Scottish rockers The Xcerts.

Adam Ant returns to his punk album Dirk Wears White Sox and his 80s hits at Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms tonight (Thursday). Rock veterans UFO are at the Wulfrun Hall on Saturday and Status Quo bring ther Aquostic Tour to Wolverhampton Civic Hall on April 23.

Yes guitarist Steve Howe is at the Robin 2 in Bilston tonight and the same venue hosts 70s prog rockers Curved Air with singer Sonja Kristina on Sunday.

Wilde work given supernatural twist

OSCAR Wilde's The Picture of Dorian Gray is given a supernatural twist by European Arts Company. It is on at the Arena Theatre, Wolverhampton, on Saturday at 3pm and 7.30pm.

Ten Downing Street comes under the spotlight in Steve Thompson's Feed The Beast at Birmingham Rep Studio Theatre from tonight until May 2, with a cast including Gerald Kyd and Kacey Ainsworth.

A dance work looking at how the human body responds to war, 5 Soldiers, choreographed by Rosie Kay, is staged with the audience also on the main stage at the Birmingham Rep, from April 23 to 25.

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 16, 2015

Didhy – oyster and fish soup Gabriel restaurant

Going to market – inside Fish Church

The world's your oyster – Fish Church, Gothenburg, is laden with all sorts of fresh produce

Karen Bowerman with cod on a fishing trip

Fishy tales as we are led on a totally Scandilicious foodie tour

By Karen Bowerman

FOR the guy that's the equivalent of Gordon Ramsay in the Danish version of Hell's Kitchen, chef Wassim Hallal seems a surprisingly agreeable chap.

He arrives at his new deli, sporting a flat cap and the broadest of grins, and welcomes us, wholeheartedly, to Denmark.

Maybe my delight in his smorrebrod (Danish open sandwiches) has something to do with this, but even when my foodie companion, Bill, begins drilling him on sarnie specifics he's still patient and polite.

Bill and I are on a whistle-stop Scandi food tour. We've got three days to visit three cities in three countries: Sweden, Norway and Denmark.

We meet Hallal in Aarhus, on the country's east coast. His deli, F-Hoj, has a classy cosiness. Our open sandwiches are heaped with toppings: smoked salmon with avocado puree, smoked cheese and fresh horseradish; potato and pear with mustard and honey; and eggs and crayfish with grapes and salsify.

Focusing on fresh, seasonal produce is at the heart of New Nordic Cuisine. It's led to a renaissance of Scandinavian classics, including smorrebrod, which is now being seen, and served, in a new light.

Using organic, regional ingredients is also the aim of Nordisk Spisehus, where Bill and I have dinner. The restaurant serves signature dishes from Michelin-starred establishments. "We get the thumbs up before we copy their menus," a waitress reassures me.

I leave, wondering if Nordisk needs to be more courageous. Given its dishes seem to hold their own in a Michelin-starred menu, does the kitchen really need to rely so heavily on the creativity of others?

The next morning Bill and I catch a ferry to Sweden's west coast city of Gothenburg. It's known for its coffee culture but we're heading to the Fish Church. It's actually a 19th century fish market in a building inspired by Norway's wooden stave churches that were built without pillars.

Variety

The 'aisle' is laden with fresh lobster, shrimp and salmon. But it's the variety of pickled herring that catches my eye. Choices include oregano and pink peppercorn, carrot and juniper and onion and bay leaves. I try herring and redcurrant, expecting the sour taste of vinegar, but instead, the fish is soft and almost creamy, with the fruit giving it a fabulous kick. On a mezzanine at the far end of the market is Gabriel, where we're having lunch. It's run by chef Johan Malm, who won the World Oyster Opening Championships in 2010.

We eat sumptuously; fresh oysters from Grebbestad (two hours north of Gothenburg), the thickest of fish soups with sweet prawns and fish that's almost al dente, and grilled plaice with browned butter and potatoes.

On our final day, we forego fine dining for fishing. At Ersfjordbotn, a small hamlet 15km west of Tromso, we meet Trond Lorentzen, whose family runs a fish

Trond's wife is peeling potatoes. We sit down to the freshest cod I've ever tasted.

* Karen Bowerman was a guest of the Danish, Swedish and Norwegian tourist boards. Visit www.visitdenmark.co.uk, www.visitsweden.com and www.visitnorway.com

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CHOICE

George Eads

CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Channel 5, 10.10pm)
The team learns the suspect in the Gig Harbour killings is being released from jail due to lack of evidence, and DB's daughter Maya asks her father if she can return to Seattle because she has been having nightmares about the case. A planned airport escort goes awry when her assigned officers are drawn to a nearby shooting, and private investigator Daniel Shaw shows up, claiming he is Maya's new driver. Meanwhile, Hodges traces the violin strings used in the murders to a woman named Rebecca Lowell, and her home yields shocking evidence. Ted Danson, Elisabeth Shue, George Eads, Jorja Fox, Eric Szmanda, Robert David Hall, Wallace Langham, Elisabeth Harnois and Elise Luthman star.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** BBC News; Weather. **12.10** Football Focus. **1.00** Live Gymnastics. The 2015 European Artistic Gymnastics Individual Championships. **3.30** Live Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix – Qualifying. Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir (Start-time 4.00pm). **5.05** Match of the Day Live. Arsenal v Reading (Kick-off 5.20pm).
7.25 BBC News.
7.35 Regional Programme.
7.45 Atlantis. Jason has been sentenced to death and it seems no one will be able to save him – until Hercules comes up with a plan that will require him to make a huge personal sacrifice.
8.30 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which up to five contestants answer questions to scoop a big cash prize. Only those in the winners' row will have a chance of taking home the loot, so they will need to get all the answers right – as well as a little bit of luck on their side. Including the Lotto and Thunderball draws, hosted by Kate Garraway.
9.20 Casualty. A construction worker outside the hospital loses control of his digger, taking out the power in the ED and half-burying a young woman – who just happens to be his own daughter who had come to see him. Alfred is rushed in with pneumonia and when Connie insists the team don't intervene, Rita becomes suspicious. Cal receives a phone call from a distressed Taylor and finds her in a public toilet with a knife in her leg, having got mixed up with the wrong people. It's a bad wound and she is refusing to go to hospital, so he realises he needs Ethan's help. But things don't quite work out as expected.
10.10 BBC News; Weather.
10.30 Match of the Day. Gabby Logan presents highlights of the latest Premier League clashes, including Chelsea v Manchester United and Leicester City v Swansea City; National Lottery Update.
11.50 The Football League Show. Manish Bhasin presents highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures.
1.10 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.15** BBC News.

BBC2

6.25 Film: The Silver Darlings. (1947) **7.45 Film:** Animal Farm. (1954) **9.00** FA Cup Rewind: Semi-Final Classics. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **11.55** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **12.55** Live Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix – Third Practice. Coverage from the Bahrain International Circuit, Sakhir. **2.05** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The afternoon session on day one at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. **4.30** Final Score. **5.15** Escape to the Continent. **5.45** Flog It! (R)
6.30 Gardeners' World. Monty Don gives his borders a boost at Longmeadow, while James Alexander-Sinclair heads to Borde Hill Garden in West Sussex to visit its collection of award-winning magnolias. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The concluding session on the opening day of the ranking tournament at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where the first-round match involving Mark Selby reaches a conclusion.
8.00 Dad's Army. Mainwaring tries to talk Frazer into depositing his hoard of gold sovereigns in a safe place – his own bank. Vintage comedy, with Arthur Lowe and John Laurie. (R)
8.30 Film: Jane Eyre. (2011) A girl raised in misery by her cruel aunt grows up to become a governess, and is sent to the estate of a mysterious Yorkshire landowner. Despite being disturbed by strange goings-on in the house, she falls in love with her brooding employer, only to discover he is concealing a terrible secret. Period drama based on Charlotte Bronte's novel, starring Mia Wasikowska, Michael Fassbender and Judi Dench.
10.20 QI XL. Extended edition. Jo Brand, Colin Lane, David Mitchell and Alan Davies attempt to answer host Stephen Fry's questions on the theme of landmarks. Last in the series.
11.05 Snooker: The World Championship. Highlights of the evening session on the opening day at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, where two first-round matches were scheduled.
11.55 Snooker: World Championship Extra. Extended highlights.
1.55 Film: Father of My Children. (2009) **3.45** Sign Zone: Antiques Roadshow. (R) **4.45** The Truth About Calories. (R) **5.45** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.35** Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **8.00** Thunderbirds Are Go. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.20** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **1.40** Doc Martin. (R) **2.40 Film:** Crocodile Dundee in Los Angeles. (2001) Comedy adventure sequel, starring Paul Hogan. **4.30** The Unforgettable Joan Sims. (R) **5.00** Off Their Rockers. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme ; Weather.**5.45** ITV News; Weather.
6.00 New You've Been Framed! A-Z of Growing Up. Harry Hill presents classic videos featuring youngsters across the world as he unveils his guidebook to growing up, from toddlers to teens.
7.00 Ninja Warrior UK. Contenders from across the nation test their strength, speed and courage in the second heat of the obstacle-course challenge, all hoping to progress to the semi-finals.
8.00 Britain's Got Talent. The annual search for a star continues as more auditionees try to win over Simon Cowell, David Walliams, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon with their talents. The acts all have their eyes on the prize of £250,000 and a slot at this year's Royal Variety Performance, but first they must secure a place in the live semi-finals. And with the return of the golden buzzers, the judges, as well as hosts Ant and Dec, each have the power to send one act straight through, regardless of anyone else's opinion.
9.15 Play to the Whistle. Captains Bradley Walsh and Frank Lampard are joined by guests Sean Lock, Graeme Swann, Alex Scott and Romesh Ranganathan. Holly Willoughby hosts the sports-based comedy panel show.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Film: Red Heat. (1988) A Russian detective and a Chicago cop put aside their mutual mistrust to catch an escaped Soviet drug baron. Action thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger.
12.10 Jackpot247. **3.00** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.40** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.35 FIM Superbike World Championship. **7.05** Brighton Marathon. **8.00** The Morning Line. **9.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **11.00** Frasier. (R) **11.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. (R) **1.30** Channel 4 Racing featuring the Scottish Grand National from Ayr, and Newbury. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R)
6.15 Come Dine with Me. Outspoken hairdresser Patrick McMurray hosts the final party in Sutton Coldfield, and prepares a scallop starter and a classic beef Wellington. (R)
6.45 Channel 4 News.
7.00 Walking Through History: Northumbria. Tony Robinson explores the history of the ancient kingdom on a walk from Melrose in the Scottish Borders to Holy Island off the coast of Northumberland. Over five days, he goes on the trail of one of Northumbria's greatest sons – Saint Cuthbert. Through the Tweed Valley and across the Cheviot Hills, it's a journey through a murky history laden with myth. However, by investigating the communities, power bases and landscape of seventh-century Northumbria, Tony aims to understand the pagan land in which Cuthbert spread his simple brand of Celtic Christianity. (R)
8.00 The World's Most Extreme. The 10 most dangerous and extraordinary bridges around the world, including the Millau Viaduct in southern France, a popular base-jumping spot for thrill-seekers.
9.00 Film: X-Men: First Class. (2011) Telepathic mutant Charles Xavier forms the first generation of the superhero team in the 1960s. Their battle with a Nazi war criminal manipulating the world toward nuclear war gradually drives a wedge between Xavier and his ally Magneto, leading them to become deadly enemies. Superhero adventure prequel, starring James McAvoy.
11.40 Film: In Fear. (2013) Horror, starring Iain De Caestecker.
1.15 Alan Carr: Chatty Man. (R) **2.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.15** Hugh's 3 Good Things: Best Bites. **4.30** Double Your House for Half the Money. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **11.30** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **12.25** Ice Road Truckers. (R) **1.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **2.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **3.25 Film:** Columbo: Make Me a Perfect Murder. (1978) **5.25** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R)
6.20 Britain's Horror Homes. A woman from the Norfolk village of Happisburgh whose house had to be demolished after coastal erosion left it suspended in mid-air on the edge of a cliff. (R)
7.10 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. The return of the documentary giving an insight into the world of debt collection from the perspectives of debtors, creditors and those who collect the payments. Brian and Graham have been warned to expect trouble as they evict some tenants from a south London flat, one of whom has a reputation for violence. Everything goes smoothly until the enforcement agents make a shocking discovery in a child's bedroom. Paul and Steve head to Slough to collect wages owed to a freelance worker, but the debtor is less than happy to find the high-court enforcement officers on his doorstep and things get physical. (R)
8.10 5 News Weekend.
8.15 NCIS. The team tries to prove Ziva had nothing to do with a political assassination carried out by her former Mossad partner – but has to tackle the case without Gibbs's guidance. (R)
9.10 NCIS. Gibbs and the team attend the funeral of a fallen colleague before identifying the man they believe to be the port-to-port killer, and rushing to apprehend him. (R)
10.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The team learns the suspect in the Gig Harbour killings is being released from jail due to lack of evidence, and DB's daughter Maya asks her father if she can return to Seattle.
11.10 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A single murder quickly becomes a case involving three bodies, leaving Benson and Stabler hunting a killer whose motives seemingly stem from a misguided sense of righteousness. (R)
12.05 SuperCasino. **3.10** The Gadget Show. (R) **4.00** 200 Nips & Tucks and I Want More! (R) **4.50** Make It Big. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Film: Chicken Run (2000) **8.20** Top Gear **9.30** Tatau **10.10** Happy Valley **11.10** Family Guy **1.20** Tatau **2.00** Bluestone 42 **2.30** Killer Magic **3.00** Siblings **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 Ice Age Giants **8.00** Wild China **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.55** John Denver: Country Boy **11.55** John Denver at Wembley Arena **12.35** An Evening with Glen Campbell **1.55** Sounds of the Eighties **2.20** The Sky at Night **2.50** Wild China **3.50** Close
ITV2
11.00 Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.25** The Hot Desk: Ed Sheeran **1.40 Film:** Honey (2003) **3.30 Film:** Bill & Ted's Excellent Adventure (1989) **5.20** Mr Bean **6.30 Film:** Apollo 13 (1995) **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Celebrity Juice **11.05** Britain's Got Talent **12.20** Britain's Got More Talent **1.20** Hell's Kitchen **2.10** Crazy Beaches **2.35** Life's Funniest Moments **2.55** Teleshopping **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
11.55 Film: Gosford Park (2001) **2.35** Inspector Morse **4.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Doc Martin **8.00** Foyle's War **10.00** Inspector Morse **12.15** A Touch of Frost **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping
ITV4
12.55 Counting Cars **1.50 Film:** The Appaloosa (1966) **3.55 Film:** The War Wagon (1967) **6.00** Storage Wars **7.00** Shed and Buried **8.00** River Monsters **9.00 Film:** Born on the Fourth of July (1989) **11.50 Film:** Inside Man (2006) **2.20** Benidorm **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
11.00 Melissa & Joey **12.00** Baby Daddy **1.00** How I Met Your Mother **2.00 Film:** Hop (2011) **4.00** Made in Chelsea **5.00** How I Met Your Mother **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00 Film:** Sleepy Hollow (1999) **11.15** The Big Bang Theory **12.15** The Inbetweeners **1.20** Rude Tube **2.25** The 100 **3.10** How I Met Your Mother **3.55** 2 Broke Girls **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **4.40** Make It or Break It **5.25** Rude(ish) Tube
Film4
11.00 That Riviera Touch (1966) **1.00** King Kong (1976) **3.50** A Knight's Tale (2001) **6.35** Water for Elephants (2011) **9.00** The Guard (2011) Comedy thriller, with Brendan Gleeson and Don Cheadle. **10.55** The Raven (2012) **1.05** Chinatown (1974) **3.50** Close

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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Sandwell Family Information Service

Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 16, 2015

CHOICE

Philip Glenister

For the Love of Cars (Channel 4, 8pm)
The first edition of this new series sees Life on Mars and Ashes to Ashes star Philip Glenister and renowned car designer Ant Anstead take another trip around the barns and lock-ups of Britain, returning classic motors to their former glory. They begin in Hertfordshire with an Aston Martin DBS – the model driven by George Lazenby in the Bond film On Her Majesty's Secret Service. Over 10 weeks, they complete the bare metal restoration before the vehicle is sold at auction, and Philip gets to experience Roger Moore's DBS from the cult 1970s show The Persuaders.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. With Mark Chapman and the Match of the Day team. **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** Lifeline. **2.10** Points of View. **2.25** Songs of Praise. **3.00** Live Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix. The fourth round of the season from Sakhir (Start-time 4.00pm).
6.05 Celebrity Mastermind. John Humphrys quizzes Pete Firman, Paul Martin, Jaye Griffiths and Pete Reed on the subjects of Tommy Cooper, rock drummers 1970-2000, Ayrton Senna and the Lord of the Rings films. (R)
6.35 BBC News.
6.50 Regional Programme.
7.00 Countryfile. In an exploration of British woodlands, Ellie Harrison is high in the canopy with scientists collecting leaf buds to learn more about the effects of CO2 on forest life, then helps release hedgehogs back into the wild. John Craven discovers the ancient craft of coppicing, Anita Rani learns how to build with baked wood, and Tom Heap investigates what people can do to defend trees against disease. Plus, Adam Henson presents the third and final Countryfile Farming Heroes nominee. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.
8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team visit Lowther Castle in Cumbria, where items include a make-up set from the 1920s, an unusual letterbox and a stuffed dog with an aristocratic pedigree.
9.00 Poldark. The smelting company suffers as a result of George's tough business dealings. Ross and Francis fall out over Verity, while Mark returns home early to an unwelcome surprise.
10.00 BBC News.
10.20 Regional Programme.
10.30 Match of the Day 2. Gabby Logan reviews the latest Premier League action, featuring Manchester City v West Ham United at the Etihad Stadium and Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur.
11.20 Match of the Day: FA Cup Highlights.
11.55 Film: The Uninvited. (2009) Thriller, starring Emily Browning.
1.15 Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.20** BBC News.

BBC2

7.35 The A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** FA Cup Rewind: Semi-Final Classics. **10.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. **12.00** Back in Time for Dinner. (R) **1.00** Food & Drink. (R) **1.30** Live Gymnastics. The 2015 European Artistic Gymnastics Individual Championships. **4.00** Live Snooker: The World Championship. From the Crucible.
6.00 Penguins on a Plane: Great Animal Moves. Part two of two. The transportation of exotic animals around the world, following saltwater crocodiles from France to Oxfordshire and two arctic wolves from Hungary to Scotland. (R)
7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Jason Mohammad presents coverage of the evening session on day two of the final ranking tournament of the season, featuring the conclusion of two first-round matches at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield, involving seeded players Stephen Maguire and John Higgins. Given the intense nature of the event, played over a duration of 17 days, the players will be looking to not only win through to round two, but hopefully progress with something to spare, saving themselves the mental fatigue that can affect their performance later in the tournament.
8.10 Coast Australia. The south-west corner of the country, where Neil Oliver retraces the steps of six Irish prisoners-of-conscience and Brendan Moar finds out about a botanical pioneer.
9.00 Hunters of the South Seas. New series. Will Millard visits the Bajau people of Sampela, Indonesia, and lives with spear fisherman Kabei and his family, experiencing their unique way of life.
10.00 Bluestone 42. As the team prepares to leave Afghanistan for the final time, Simon performs an awesome act of heroism. Last in the series.
10.30 Film: Carnage. (2011) Black comedy, with Jodie Foster.
11.45 Snooker: The World Championship.
12.35 Snooker: World Championship Extra. **2.35** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **3.35** Holby City. (R) **4.35** The Ladykillers: Pest Detectives. (R) **5.35** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Bottom Knocker Street. **6.10** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.20** Bottom Knocker Street. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **7.35** Hulk and the Agents of Smash. **8.00** The Aquabats! Super Show! (R) **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **12.35** ITV News; Weather. **12.45 Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie. (2011) Children's comedy, starring Theo Stevenson. **2.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **3.50** Darcy Oake: Edge of Reality. (R) **4.50** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **5.50** Ninja Warrior UK. (R)
6.50 Regional Programme; Weather.
7.00 ITV News; Weather.
7.15 Celebrity Squares. New series. Warwick Davis returns with the Noughts and Crosses-based game show in which contestants try to win cash prizes with the help of famous faces. This week, resident comedians Tim Vine and Joe Wilkinson are joined by guests Paddy McGuinness, Louis Smith, Anna Crilly and Katy Wix, Alison Hammond, Rob Beckett, Michelle Keegan and Gino D'Acampo.
8.00 Vera. When a body is dredged up from a slurry pit on a remote farm, the investigation forces owner Danny Pryor to admit he has a number of illegal Serbian workers on the payroll. A faded tattoo identifies the victim as Jack Reeves, a young man from the local travelling community, but what is his connection to the immigrants? As the case unfolds, Vera and her team must connect the dots between Jack and a wounded Serbian, and expose the tragic truth at the heart of Pryor Farm. With Mark Bonnar.
10.00 ITV News; Weather.
10.15 Perspectives: Michael Jackson's Thriller with Ashley Banjo. New series. The Diversity leader heads to America to find out about his idol Michael Jackson, and the album that catapulted him to global superstardom in 1982.
11.20 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Alesha Dixon. The singer and Britain's Got Talent judge chats about her career and personal life. (R)
12.15 The Store. **2.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.15** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

7.05 British GT. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces. (R) **1.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** The Simpsons. (R) **3.55** Location, Location, Location. (R) **4.55** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away.
6.00 Channel 4 News.
6.20 Film: Ice Age: Continental Drift. (2012) Premiere. A cataclysm leaves prehistoric animals Manny, Sid and Diego lost at sea on a drifting iceberg. They try to find a way to return home, embarking on a journey that leads to an encounter with a ferocious band of piratical creatures. Animated comedy sequel, with the voices of Ray Romano, John Leguizamo, Denis Leary and Peter Dinklage.
8.00 For the Love of Cars. New series. Philip Glenister and Ant Anstead restore more classic motors, beginning with an Aston Martin DBS – the model from the Bond film On Her Majesty's Secret Service.
9.00 Indian Summers. It's the end of the summer season and Ramu's fate is left in Ralph's hands. Now he knows the truth behind the murder, will he let an innocent man hang? A vote takes place at the club to lift the colour bar, and although Ronnie tells Cynthia it was on Willingdon's orders, she knows it's really an act of vengeance by Ralph following their recent argument. Alice and Aafrin go public with their relationship, while Sarah is distraught as she prepares to say goodbye to India and her husband. Last in the series.
10.30 Gogglebox. Capturing the households' instant reactions to what they are watching on TV from the comfort of their own sofas. Narrated by Caroline Aherne. (R)
11.30 First Dates. Mula hopes tonight will be second time lucky after being stood up on her first visit, while restaurateur Tom tries to impress dance teacher Aliiee with some well-rehearsed advances. (R)
12.30 The Secret Millionaire. (R) **1.25 Film:** Mirch Masala. (1987) **3.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Kirstie's Vintage Gems.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.15** Milkshake! Monkey. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.35** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** The Mr Men Show. (R) **7.00** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Mio Mao. (R) **7.15** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.15** Zack and Quack. **8.30** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.45** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. **9.30** Dora and Friends. (R) **10.00** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.35** Access. **10.40** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **11.35** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **12.35** The Hotel Inspector Returns. (R) **1.35 Film:** Stepmom. (1998) Drama, starring Julia Roberts and Susan Sarandon. **3.55 Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks. (2007) Children's comedy, starring Jason Lee. **5.40 Film:** Pocahontas. (1995) Disney animated drama, with the voice of Irene Bedard.
7.15 5 News Weekend.
7.20 Film: Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. (1994) An eccentric but brilliant former cop sets himself up to champion the underdog – as a private eye specialising in locating missing animals. The zany detective is called in to find a kidnapped dolphin – the mascot of an American football team – and uncovers a plot involving high-level police corruption. Comedy, starring Jim Carrey, Courteney Cox, Sean Young, Tone Loc and Noble Willingham. Edited for language.
9.00 Film: Stolen. (2012) Premiere. A reformed thief's daughter is kidnapped by an old partner in crime, who demands he hand over $10million they stole together. The former crook is unable to convince the kidnappers he does not have the money, so sets out to rescue the girl – but if the ransom is not paid in 24 hours, she will be killed. Action thriller, starring Nicolas Cage, Josh Lucas, Danny Huston and Malin Akerman.
10.55 Film: Drive Angry. (2011) A man breaks out of Hell to track down the cult leader who has murdered his daughter and plans to sacrifice her baby. Fantasy thriller, starring Nicolas Cage and Amber Heard.
12.50 Jackass. (R) **1.15** SuperCasino. **3.10** 2,000 Tattoos, 40 Piercings and a Pickled Ear. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.15** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix **8.10 Film:** Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) **10.00** Tatau **10.45** Family Guy **11.30** American Dad! **11.55** Family Guy **12.15** Tatau **1.00** Ecstasy Wars: Stacey Dooley Investigates **2.00** Bluestone 42 **2.30** In Deep **2.45** Tatau **3.30** Killer Magic **4.00** Close
BBC Four
7.00 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes **8.00** New Forest Badgers **8.10 Film:** Grand Prix (1966) **10.55** Madness in the Desert: Paris to Dakar Rally **11.55** How to Make a Number One Record **12.55** One-Hit Wonders at the BBC **1.55** BBC Young Dancer 2015 **2.55** 10 Things You Didn't Know About Earthquakes **3.55** Close
ITV2
11.25 Take Me Out **12.35** Scorpion **1.30** Mr Bean **2.35** Catchphrase Celebrity Special **3.40 Film:** Stormbreaker (2006) **5.30** Britain's Got Talent **6.50** Britain's Got More Talent **7.50 Film:** The Vow (2012) **10.00 Film:** Burlesque (2010) **12.20** Mom **1.10** Viral Tap **1.50** Life's Funniest Moments **2.15** Teleshopping **5.45** ITV2 Nightscreen
ITV3
12.30 Sherlock Holmes: The Master Blackmailer **2.40** Agatha Christie's Marple **4.40** Inspector Morse **7.00** Our Queen **9.00 Film:** The Queen (2006) **11.10 Film:** Ray (2004) **2.00** Countrywise **2.50** Judge Judy **3.30** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.40** Emmerdale
ITV4
6.30 The Car Chasers **7.00** Storage Wars **8.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special **9.00 Film:** High Plains Drifter (1973) **11.10 Film:** Shootout (1971) **1.15** Benidorm **1.45** River Monsters **2.45** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping
E4
1.00 Revenge **2.00 Film:** Hairspray (2007) **4.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **4.30** Brooklyn Nine-Nine **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **8.00 Film:** Star Trek: Insurrection (1998) **10.05** Virtually Famous **10.55** The Inbetweeners **11.55** The Big Bang Theory **12.55** Bodyshockers: Nips, Tucks and Tattoos **1.55** The 100 **2.50** Rules of Engagement **3.30** Hollyoaks
Film4
11.00 The Mistress of Spices (2005) **1.00** Meet Dave (2008) **2.50** Carry On Behind (1975) **4.40** Cocoon: The Return (1988) **6.55** The Perks of Being a Wallflower (2012) **9.00** Broken City (2013) **11.10** The Iceman (2012) **1.15** Eccentricities of a Blonde-haired Girl (2009) **2.30** Alamar (2009) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

MONDAY
Lock Up, Channel 5, 10.55pm
A convict is transferred to a maximum security prison, where he falls foul of a sadistic warden with a grudge against him. Thriller, starring Sylvester Stallone and Donald Sutherland. (1989)

TUESDAY
In the Electric Mist, BBC1, 11.45pm
A recovering alcoholic detective investigates the discovery of a body in a swamp, where he witnessed a murder as a boy. As he sets out to prove a local gangster is involved in a more recent killing, he begins having visions of ghostly Confederate soldiers. Mystery, starring Tommy Lee Jones and John Goodman. (2009)

WEDNESDAY
A detective is sent to Alaska to investigate a murder during a month when the sun does not set. Sleep deprivation starts to take its toll, and he accidentally shoots his partner dead. He tries to cover it up, but the criminal they were hunting has seen everything and blackmails the cop into helping him escape justice. Thriller directed by Christopher Nolan, starring Al Pacino, Robin Williams and Hilary Swank. (2002)

Withnail & I, Friday, Channel 4, 12.20am

THURSDAY
Deadly Hope, Channel 5, 3.15pm
A fertility doctor trying to recover from the murder of her colleague attends a charity function, where a man she meets is also killed. She realises that she was the intended target in both attacks, and tries to find out who wants her dead and why before anyone else dies. Thriller, starring Alana De La Garza and Sandrine Holt. (2012)

FRIDAY
Withnail & I, Channel 4, 12.20am
Two hard-drinking unemployed actors sharing a grotty flat in late 1960s London think they can escape their miserable existence by decamping to a cottage in the Lake District. But finding no respite from their problems, the less self-destructive of the pair comes to realise he has to leave his friend behind. Cult black comedy, starring Richard E Grant, Paul McGann, Richard Griffiths and Ralph Brown. (1987)

Jason awaits his fate as Hercules plans a rescue

Jack Donnelly was eight years old when his dreams of becoming Batman were put on hold.

He and his classmates went to see a school production of Smike and Jack realised that's what he wanted to do with the rest of his life.

It helped that his folks were in showbusiness. His dad, Tony, was an actor and his mum, Chrissie, was a dancer who also choreographed Bucks Fizz's Eurovision-winning Making Your Mind Up dance routine.

(There was an argument over which length skirts Cheryl Baker and Jay Aston should wear, so Chrissie came up with the idea of using both, the longer whipped off half way through the routine).

Fast forward a few years, and after leaving drama school, Jack and his best friend Joel Mellenger won an improv competition. They started their own company, Chuckleduster, and doors started opening.

These days Jack is better known as Jason, the protagonist at the heart of **Atlantis (BBC1, 7.45pm)**, and there's no shortage of problems for him here.

Our hero has been sentenced to death, and with the might of the High Priests bearing down upon him, it seems nobody can secure his release.

While Pasiphae tightens her stranglehold on the city, it looks like Jason is doomed, until Hercules comes up with a plan.

The show may have gone down a storm with many, but the high production costs eventually led to its own demise. However, some shows have a habit of lingering long after the axe has fallen.

So, has he had a lot of interest from across the Pond?

"Atlantis went down great over there," Jack enthuses. "I think it was the biggest show they've ever had on BBC America.

"To be fair it came right after the Sherlock Christmas special; that might have helped us, but yeah, the viewing figures went down great there, and I think they sold it to 120 countries around the world, which is fantastic."

And getting such a high profile in such an influential country is invaluable for any actor.

"In terms of my own career and stuff, anything to get noticed in America and open up doors there is brilliant, but we'll see."

It doesn't hurt that he recently made the improv football mockumentary United We Fall.

It started out as a comedy workshop, but once director Gary Sinyor got the money to develop it, that became a movie.

"I honestly didn't even expect it to be made into a film," Jack explains while plugging the DVD. "I'm not sure how it was going to work, so a lot of that is down to Gary and the editing."

Donnelly wasn't given the chance of a second take.

"I had to be in the moment or that was it. And you move forward. You never got to do it again," he explains.

For the moment, Ben Affleck may be the new Dark Knight, but Jack still holds a glimmer of hope that one day he'll get to don that iconic cowl.

"Unless the Batman thing comes back on the cards, I think I'll stick with acting," he smiles.

Jack Donnelly stars in Atlantis, Saturday, BBC1, 7.45pm

BEST OF THE REST

MONDAY
Safe House
ITV, 9pm
New series. Former policeman Robert and his wife Katy gave up their city lives after a witness in his care was shot dead, and he's been struggling with his guilt ever since. In an attempt to put the past behind them, the couple now run a guest house in the Lake District. But when old colleague DCI Mark Maxwell suggests the building would work as a safe house, Robert takes in a family who are under threat. It's a chance for him to make use of his detective skills and ensure nothing goes wrong this time. Drama, starring Christopher Eccleston.

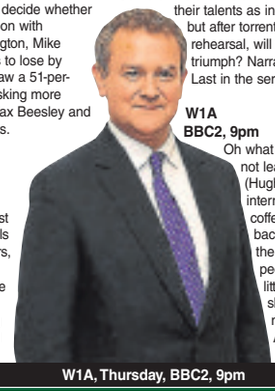
TUESDAY
Live UEFA Champions League
ITV, 7.30pm
Mark Pougatch presents coverage of the quarter-final second-leg encounter from the Nou Camp. This is the third time in as many seasons that the Spanish and French giants have been drawn against each other in European football's premier club competition, and the second time they have clashed in the quarter-finals, having previously done so in 2012/13. Both of the matches ended in draws on that occasion, but it was the Catalans who progressed via the away goals rule.

Ordinary Lies
BBC1, 9pm
Sixteen months after Beth's husband Dave went missing, she feels ready to move on – until she receives unexpected news that leaves her reeling. Leaving the kids with her mother-in-law, she travels to Margate – where she is forced to decide whether to leave her old life behind or move on with company boss Mike. Back in Warrington, Mike himself considers how much he has to lose by leaving his wife – with his father-in-law a 51-per-cent holder in the company, he is risking more than just his marriage. Jo Joyner, Max Beesley and Shaun Dooley star. Last in the series.

WEDNESDAY
Give a Pet a Home
ITV, 8pm
Amanda Holden reveals which of last week's celebrity-championed animals have found a new home with viewers, and six more potential pets are put up for adoption at the RSPCA centre in Birmingham. They include Tiger the Bengal cat, who was a shooting victim, and Wally the horse, who fell into a river and swam seven miles to safety.

THURSDAY
Ice Rink on the Estate
ITV, 9pm
In this final programme, tension, excitement and even romance are in the air as the big show looms. Some of the skaters are chosen to demonstrate their talents as individuals and in pairs, but after torrential rain ruins the dress rehearsal, will the main event be a triumph? Narrated by Suranne Jones. Last in the series.

W1A
BBC2, 9pm
Oh what a glorious series this is, not least because of Will (Hugh Skinner), the stupid intern. For him going on a coffee run and trying to get back into the building can be the equivalent of some people scaling Everest, so little wonder he steals the show in the first few minutes of series two. And that's far from easy when there's such a wealth of comedic talent, including Hugh Bonneville as Ian Fletcher (Head of Values), Jessica Hynes as Siobhan Sharpe (Head of Branding) and Jason Watkins as Simon Harwood (Director of Strategic Governance). A year after arriving at the BBC, Ian and his team are preparing for a visit by Prince Charles, while Siobhan is working on a Wimbledon coverage makeover.


W1A, Thursday, BBC2, 9pm

FRIDAY
MasterChef
BBC1, 8.30pm
It's been seven weeks, 24 episodes, countless split sauces and sunken soufflés, and all manner of highs and lows for the finalists of the latest series of TV's toughest cookery contest, but at last we are about to be put out of our misery as the search for the country's best amateur cook reaches its climax.

Slow Train Through Africa with Griff Rhys Jones
ITV, 9pm
The comedian begins the third leg of his trip in Kasama, northern Zambia. His first stop is the town of Mpika, where he meets college students training to be locomotive drivers. Next, in the capital Lusaka, he reveals how the first railways were built to access the country's rich mineral wealth.

CUT OUT & KEEP

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Blackpool
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Mon 25th Sat 30th
Coronation Street Tour
Sat 2nd May
Weston-Super-Mare
Mon 4th May
Mon 25th May
Southport
Mon 4th May
Waterworld (Stoke)
Sat 9th May
Severn Valley Railway 50th Anniversary "Peppa Pig and Daddy Pig"
Sun 10th May
Haworth 1940s Week-end
Sat 16th
Alton Towers
Sun 17th
Liverpool Docks
Tues 26th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Weds 27th
JUNE
Blackpool
Sat 6th Sat 13th
Sat 20th Sat 27th
Rhyl
Sat 6th Sat 20th Sat 27th
Weston-Super-Mare
Sat 27th
Clarks Village Outlet
Sat 13th
JULY
Blackpool
Sat 4th Sat 11th
Sat 18th Sat 25th
Cheshire Oak (Shopper)
Sat 4th
Kent Bluewater Centre
Sat 11th
Barmouth, Wales
Sat 18th
Southport
Thu 23rd
Rhyl or Llandudno
Sat 25th
Southend On Sea
Mon 27th
Cotswold - Bourton On The Water
Mon 27th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Weds 29th
Great Yarmouth
Weds 29th
Cheddar Gorge
Thurs 30th
Windsor Castle
Fri 31st
Stoke-Trentham Monkey Forest-Waterworld
Fri 31st
AUGUST
Blackpool
Sat 1st Weds 5th
Sat 15th Sun 16th
Sat 22nd
Sat 29th Mon 31st
Lake Windermere
Sat 1st
Bournemouth
Mon 3rd
Drayton Manor
Mon 3rd
Twycross Zoo
Weds 5th
Weston Super Mare
Thurs 6th Mon 10th
Weds 19th Mon 31st
Bath
Thurs 6th
Barry Island
Mon 10th
Barmouth
Weds 12th
Chester or Chester Zoo
Disneyland Paris
Fri 14th - Sun 16th
Sat 15th
Severn Valley Railway 50th Anniversary Sounds of the 60s
Sat 15th
Brighton
Sun 16th
Warner Bros. Studio Tour
Mon 17th
Leicester Space Centre
Mon 17th
Cotswolds
Tues 18th
Weymouth Carnival
Weds 19th
London Short Tour and Buckingham Palace
Fri 21st
Rhyl
Sat 22nd
Sat 29th
Margate
Mon 24th
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Tues 25th
Legoland/ Windsor Castle
Tues 25th
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Torquay
Thurs 27th
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Fri 28th

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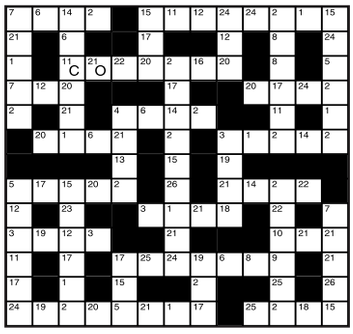
BRAIN GYM No.321

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21 O
9	22
10	23
11 C	24
12	25
13	26

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
H	T	J	A	Q	I	V	R	S	B	K	W	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
N	Z	G	D	C	E	U	X	F	L	P	O	Y

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

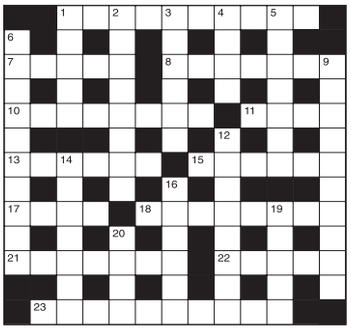
Cryptic Clues:

Across

1. The farmer is married and male (10)
7. Pirate taking remainder of pot into port (5)
8. Time to relax about lie, certainly (7)
10. Almost close to source of water (4,4)
11. Prepare some unexpected items for press (4)
13. Does he gamble in reverse? (6)
15. Breeder more at the back? (6)
17. Light and tuneful? (4)
18. Not the shape of such a letter (8)
21. They fought in dark times, we hear (7)
22. Also two points to the mountains (5)
23. Fly specimen has coloured liquid container (10)

Down

1. A bit of shovelling needed in the poor dwelling (5)
2. Strong-headed press operator can run fast (8)
3. Affirm limb dropped in beer (6)
4. Said to be a platform (4)
5. Apart, like below (7)
6. Sketch nothing unsuccessfully? (4,1,5)
9. Undertaking to get into crooked spire (10)
12. Inclination to write monotonous song (8)
14. Friendly spirit (7)
16. If rising like small company, failure results (6)
19. 50 on the rim of shelf (5)
20. Repaired hose may be in it (4)



Quick Clues:

Across

1. Vocation (10)
7. Famous (5)
8. Sharp (7)
10. Innate (8)
11. Stud (4)
13. Cordial (6)
15. Dread (6)
17. Secure (4)
18. Augment (8)
21. Exalted (7)
22. Flinch (5)
23. Again and again (10)

Down

1. Throw (5)
2. Hardened (8)
3. Swell (6)
4. Slender (4)
5. Open air (7)
6. Opposite (10)
9. Confused (10)
12. On loan (8)
14. Benign (7)
16. Purpose (6)
19. Irritate (5)
20. Rasp (4)

Sudoku

		5		4				
2	3		7				8	1
1			2		9			7
	1		8		3		5	
		2		1		8		
	4		6		5		1	
4			3		1			5
3	7			6			4	8
				9				

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

3	7	9	2	1	4	6	5	8
8	4	1	6	7	5	9	3	2
5	2	6	3	8	9	4	1	7
9	8	7	1	3	6	2	4	5
1	6	3	4	5	2	7	8	9
4	5	2	8	9	7	1	6	3
2	1	5	9	6	8	3	7	4
7	3	4	5	2	1	8	9	6
6	9	8	7	4	3	5	2	1

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Pungent; 7 Firms; 9 Ice; 10 Egregious; 12 All over with; 15 Showmanship; 17 Monoplane; 19 Won; 21 Reams; 22 Sweeten. Down: 1 Punch; 2 Age; 3 Snug; 4 Lie in wait; 5 Amounts; 8 Meters; 11 Glow-worms; 13 Orally; 14 Shooter; 16 Women; 18 Newt; 20 New. QUICK - Across: 6 Disdain; 7 Dealt; 9 Hug; 10 Acquiesce; 12 Dissimulate; 15 Penetrating; 17 Contender; 19 Bet; 21 Event; 22 Against. Down: 1 Pique; 2 Odd; 3 Disc; 4 Repellent; 5 Placate; 8 Summit; 11 Diverting; 13 Spring; 14 Revolve; 16 Cease; 18 Edge; 20 Dig.

Thinking space

Quiz

1. Which spirit is made from the juice of an agave?
2. Which battle took place on June 18, 1815?
3. Which metal has the chemical symbol Au?
4. Who claimed to have won 'peace in our time'?
5. Which historical conflict was between the Houses of Lancaster and York?
6. Who is the patron saint of Russia?
7. Of which South African city is Soweto a suburb?
8. What was the pen name of novelist Mary Ann Evans?
9. What is the capital of Venezuela?
10. Which Sioux chief led the massacre of General Custer and his men?

Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 Socrates; 2 Italian; 3 Dar es Salaam; 4 Mary Rose; 5 The Styx; 6 Georges Simenon; 7 A salamander; 8 Nancy Astor; 9 At the Alamo; 10 Edgar Allen Poe.

Niner: SUNFLOWER

Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

1448 gives an animal,
82345 gives a bird,
628879 gives another bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Offers Around £145,000

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Semi detached property in desirable location comprising, hallway, two reception rooms, refitted kitchen, utility, three bedrooms, refitted family bathroom, double glazed & centrally heated, front & rear gardens, driveway
Offers Around £194,950

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Modern second floor apartment in desirable location comprising, spacious hallway, reception room, fitted kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, double glazed & electric heating, communal grounds & parking.
Offers Around £124,950

Honiton Walk, SMETHWICK,

Family home comprising, hallway, cloakroom, through lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, double glazed and centrally heated, front and rear gardens,parking.
Offers Around £124,950

The Oval, SMETHWICK,

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Offers Around £124,950

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Farm Road, SMETHWICK,

Well maintained semi detached property with no onward chain comprising, hallway, reception room, kitchen/diner, cloakroom, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, D/G and C/H, front and rear gardens. IDEAL FIRST PURCHASE!
Offers Around £119,950

Kilmet Walk, SMETHWICK,

A very well presented mid town house comprising, porch, hallway, cloakroom, refitted kitchen/diner, reception room, three bedrooms, refitted bathroom, double glazed and electric heating, front and rear gardens. Close to shops, schools and amenities.
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Scribbans Close, SMETHWICK,

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Sycamore Road, SMETHWICK,

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Offers Around £99,950

Pool Road, SMETHWICK,

Spacious semi detached property over looking Victoria Park comprising, hallway, cloakroom, two reception rooms, fitted kitchen, six bedrooms, family bathroom, shower room, D/G and C/H, garage, driveway, front and rear gardens. VIEWING RECOMMENDED!
Offers Around £195,000

Arley Villas, WINSON GREEN,

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- Central Heating, Freehold
- EPC Rating D

£109,950

SQUIRES WALK, WS10 9DB

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- EPC Rating D

£249,950

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- EPC RATING E

£99,950

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- Two Reception Rooms
- Downstairs Shower Room
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- Conservatory
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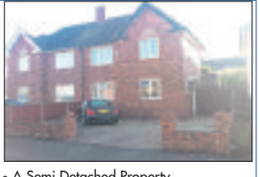
- Central Heating
- Garage, Off Road Parking To Rear
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£119,950

REMEMBRANCE ROAD, WS10 0TE

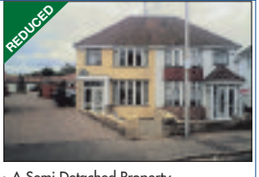


- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- Conservatory
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£139,950

WHITGREAVE STREET, B70 9BB

REDUCED



- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Double Glazing & Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Rear Garden
- EPC RATING F

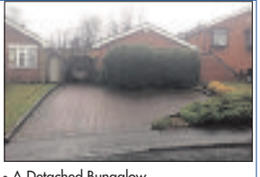
£104,950

KELVERLEY GROVE, B71 3QL

- A Semi Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Garage & Driveway
- Central Heating & Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

Offers In Excess Of £140,000

WYNDMILL CRESCENT, B71 3RB



- A Detached Bungalow
- Two Bedrooms
- Majority Double Glazed
- Central Heating, Conservatory
- EPC TBC, Freehold

£184,950

HEATH LANE, B71 2BW

- A Detached Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Extended
- Through Lounge
- EPC RATING E, Freehold

£203,950

HOPKINS DRIVE, B71 3RR

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Central Heating
- Majority Double Glazed
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£220,000

CHURCH VALE, B71 4DD

- A Detached Bungalow
- Three Bedrooms
- Planning For Extension
- Freehold, No Upward Chain
- EPC TBC, Corner Plot

£249,950

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

TO LET

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Credit Check Required
- £450 PCM

£450 DEPOSIT PLUS OTHER FEES

SAMS LANE, B70 7EG

- A Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Freehold

£99,000

CANTERBURY ROAD, B71 2LB

- A Semi Detached Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Electric Heating
- Double Glazing
- EPC RATING D, Freehold

£95,000

WALSALL STREET LAND, WS10 9EN

- Land For Sale
- Development Land
- With Outline Consent For Residential Use
- Situated On Town Centre Outskirts

WAS £50,000 NOW £45,000

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wolverhampton@skitts.net	01902 788188
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surveyors@skitts.net	0121 520 2255

NEW

TIPTON SANNDERS CRESCENT
- A Superior Four Bedroom Modern Family Home
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Breakfast Kitchen
- Part Brick Conservatory
- Downstairs WC
- En-Suite to Master Bedroom
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazed and Gas Fired Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: £204,950

NEW

COSELEY BRIDGE STREET
- Highly Modernised Three Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking for Several Vehicles
- Double Glazed and Gas Fired Central Heating
- Large Well Maintained Rear Garden
- Freehold

OFFERS AROUND: £114,995

NEW

TIPTON HALL LANE
- Three Bed Mid Terrace Family Home
- Recently Refurbished to a High Standard
- Spacious Lounge Area
- New Fitted Kitchen
- New Fitted Family Bathroom
- Off Street Parking
- Rear Garden
- No Upward Chain
- Double Glazed & Gas Central Heating

OFFERS AROUND: £85,950

NEW

WEST BROMWICH COLES LANE
- Two Bed Semi Detached Property
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Front & Rear Gardens
- New Boiler
- In Need of Modernization

OFFERS AROUND: £79,950

NEW

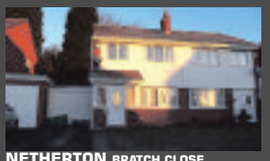
TIPTON FISHER STREET
Two Bed First Floor Maisonette
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking
- Communal Gardens
- Leasehold
- Double Glazed and Gas Fired Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £54,950

REDUCED

TIPTON BELMONT CLOSE
- Well maintained Three Bed Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge
- Kitchen Diner
- Conservatory
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking & Garage

OFFERS AROUND: £139,995



REDUCED

NETHERTON BRATCH CLOSE
- Semi detached house on popular development
- 3 bedrooms
- Nearby historical mining activity (report available)
- Lounge and dining kitchen
- Double glazing and central heating
- Vacant possession
- Quiet head of cul-de-sac location
- Landscaped gardens and garage

OFFERS AROUND: £134,950

REDUCED

TIPTON DUDLEY ROAD
- Three Bed Victorian Mid Terrace
- Lounge
- Dining Room
- Kitchen
- Extended Downstairs Bathroom
- Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Gas Fired Central Heating
- No Upward Chain

OFFERS AROUND: £111,995

REDUCED

TURTON ROAD TIPTON
- Large semi detached house
- Four good bedrooms
- Central heating and double glazing
- Downstairs bathroom
- Extra upstairs w/c
- Lounge and kitchen
- Reasonable gardens
- Close to school and amenities

OFFERS OVER: £97,000

TIPTON MYRTLE TERRACE
- Three bedroom modern link detached
- Lounge/dining room
- Kitchen
- Conservatory
- Double glazing and gas fired central heating
- Garage
- Block paved driveway
- Front and rear gardens

OFFERS AROUND: £164,950

TIPTON ANDREW ROAD
- Much improved semi on sought after development
- 3 very well proportioned bedrooms/4th ground floor bedroom
- Lovely lounge with open plan conservatory
- Bedroom 4/playroom
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Laundry room and fitted cloakroom
- Backs on to playing fields

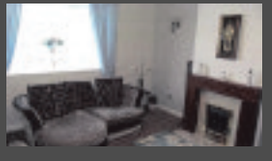
OFFERS AROUND: £152,500

TIPTON WATERY LANE
- Detached home with three excellent bedrooms
- Canalside location in small cul-de-sac
- Large rear lounge / dining room
- Fitted kitchen
- Double glazing and central heating
- Superbly re-fitted family bathroom
- Garage
- Opposite Victoria Park, close to all amenities

OFFERS OVER: £150,000

TIPTON WILLIAM BARROWS WAY
- Modern four bedroom end terraced
- Lounge
- Kitchen diner
- Downstairs WC
- Upstairs family bathroom
- En suite to master
- Two allocated parking spaces
- Rear garden

OFFERS AROUND: 149,995



TIPTON TURTON ROAD
- Large end terraced house in popular location
- 3 double bedrooms
- Lounge
- Dining kitchen
- Double glazing and central heating
- Off road parking
- Large rear garden
- Close to amenities

OFFERS OVER: £97,950

A reputation built on 40 years of Quality, Professionalism and Expertise

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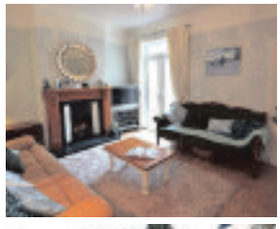
0121 4299986 Hagley Road Office

NEW



Bishopton Road, Bearwood

- Beautifully Presented Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Detached Garage
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £194,950

NEW

St Marys Road, Bearwood

- Charming Traditional Terrace
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Useful Loft Space
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £154,950

NEW

Galton Road, Bearwood

- Traditional Mid Terrace Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- No Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

Trinder Road, Smethwick

- Beautifully Presented Semi
- Three Bedrooms
- Dining Kitchen
- Attractive Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £144,950

NEW

The Uplands, Smethwick

- Extended, Traditional Terrace
- Beautifully Presented
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Off Road Parking
- EP Rating D

Offers in the region of £114,950

Bishopton Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN 6 DAYS!

Offers in the region of £169,950

Norman Road, Smethwick

SSTC IN 20 DAYS!

Offers in the region of £167,500

Lightwoods Road, Bearwood

SSTC IN 15 DAYS!

Offers in the region of £184,950

WANTED!

Due to exceptional levels of sales, we urgently require more properties to meet the demand of potential buyers.

If you are considering a move, we want to hear from you!

NOW is the time to sell!

Broadway, Oldbury

SSTC IN 7 DAYS!

Offers in the Region of £139,950

Harvest Road, Smethwick

SSTC IN 16 DAYS!

Offers in the region of £124,950

NEW PRICE

Chapel Mill, Malt Mill Lane, Halesowen

- Unique Penthouse Apartment
- Open Plan Living Space
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- No Upward Chain
- EP Rating E

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

Castle Road West, Oldbury

- Well Presented Semi-Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- Delightful Rear Garden
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £169,950

NEW

Overdale Road, Quinton

- An Extended Semi Detached
- Two Reception Rooms
- Three Bedrooms
- Off Road Parking
- Generously Sized Rear Garden
- EP Rating TBC

Offers in the region of £139,950

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SKITTS
ESTATE AGENTS

Successfully letting homes across the West Midlands & Staffordshire for over 35 years

EPC: D

Rowley Regis
Powke Lane

- Four bed detached house
- Lounge with coal gas fire
- Dining room
- Kitchen with appliances
- Main bedroom with en-suite facilities

£895pcm

EPC: TBC

Wednesbury
Rachael Gardens

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining area
- Separate breakfast area
- Fitted kitchen with oven & gas hob
- Family bathroom
- Alarm system

£700pcm

EPC: C

West Bromwich
St. Christopher Close

- Three bed detached
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Centrally heated
- Convenient to the M5 (Junction 1)
- Dining room area
- Bathroom with shower

£700pcm

EPC: E

Tipton
Watery Lane

- Three bed detached house
- Quiet cul-de-sac location
- Central heating & double glazing
- Landscaped gardens
- Fitted breakfast kitchen

£625pcm

EPC: C

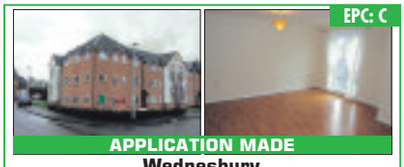
APPLICATION MADE

Tipton
Leveson Drive

- Three bed semi
- GCH & DG
- Fitted kitchen
- Family bathroom
- Master bedroom with ensuite
- Alarmed
- Garage

£600pcm

EPC: C



APPLICATION MADE

Wednesbury
Old College Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Lounge with doors onto Juliet balcony
- Fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath & shower

£525pcm

EPC: C

Tipton
Patricia Drive

- Two bed semi
- Alarmed
- Gas central heated
- Double glazed
- Spacious lounge
- Fully fitted breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£525pcm

EPC: D

Tividale
City Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Lounge
- Dining room
- Kitchen with cooker
- Family bathroom
- Rear garden

£525pcm

EPC: B

Wednesbury
Goldby Drive

- Two bed first floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Parking
- Tipton office

£475pcm

EPC: C

APPLICATION MADE

Tipton
Great Meadow

- One bed coach house
- Fully alarmed
- Unfurnished
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Bedroom with built in wardrobes
- Double glazed
- Central heated

£475pcm

EPC: C

APPLICATION MADE

Tipton
Scott Street

- Two bed mid terraced mews house
- Fully fitted kitchen
- Allocated parking
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Double glazed throughout

£475pcm

REDUCED

EPC: B

Tipton
Gough Drive

- One bedroom first floor apartment
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Bathroom with bath and shower facilities

£425pcm

EPC: F

DSS ACCEPTED

Tipton
St Marks Road

- Second floor flat
- Three bedrooms
- Bathroom with shower over
- Communal gardens
- Gas centrally heating
- Unfurnished
- Available immediately

£425pcm

EPC: B

Tipton
Gough Drive

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bedroom with fitted wardrobes
- Fitted bath and shower
- Allocated parking

£425pcm

EPC: D

APPLICATION MADE

Sedgley
Crowesbridge Mews

- Three bed detached property
- Fitted kitchen
- Conservatory
- Bathroom with shower
- Guest W/C
- Utility room
- DG and GCH

£695pcm

EPC: TBC

Dudley
Longfellow Road

- Three bedroom semi
- Double glazed and gas centrally heated
- Dining room
- Extended breakfast kitchen
- Bathroom with shower
- Attractive landscape

£625pcm

EPC: TBC

Bilston
Harlyn Close

- Two bed terraced house
- Lounge
- Rear garden
- Fully fitted kitchen with appliances
- Bathroom with bath and shower
- Allocated parking

£520pcm

REDUCED

EPC: E

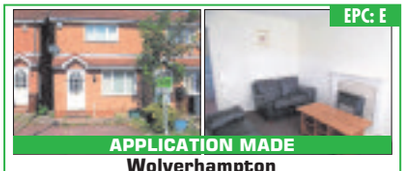
DSS ACCEPTED

Bilston
Newman Place

- Three bed terraced
- New double glazed windows
- GCH
- New carpets throughout
- Lounge
- Dining room/additional sitting room

£475pcm

EPC: E



APPLICATION MADE

Wolverhampton
Shaylor Grove

- Two bed end of terrace house
- Lounge
- Fitted kitchen
- ORP
- Enclosed rear garden
- Part electric storage heating

£395pcm

EPC: D

Coseley
Castle Street

- Two bed first floor flat
- Electric heated
- DG
- Communal garden
- Unfurnished
- Tipton office

£395pcm

EPC: C

Wolverhampton
Essington Way

- One bed ground floor apartment
- Private front door access
- Lounge
- Fully fitted modern kitchen
- Bathroom with shower

£395pcm

TENANTS!

OUR APPLICATION FEES ARE ONLY

£180 inc. VAT

FOR UP TO THREE APPLICANTS
*£50.00 PER ADDITIONAL APPLICANT

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- Credit Checks -
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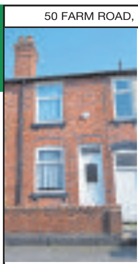
NEW

50 FARM ROAD, OLDBURY



•Ideal FTBs
•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•2 bedrooms & bathroom
•Two reception rooms
•Kitchen
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £94,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

8 TELFORD CLOSE, SMETHWICK

•Mid-town house
•Virtually PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Fully tiled shower room
•Two reception rooms
•Kitchen/ breakfast room
•Low maintenance garden
•Off-street parking
•Some cosmetic improvement
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

NEW

89 DEVON ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Prime location
•Close Warley Woods
•3 bedrooms
•Fully tiled refitted bathroom
•Spacious lounge
•Kitchen/breakfast room
•Side garage
•Well stocked neat garden
•Off-street parking
•INSPECTION A MUST
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £310,000
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

2 BRANDHALL COURT, OLDBURY

•Ground floor flat
•Kitchen
•Spacious lounge
•Two bedrooms
•Single garage
•Mature communal gardens
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : D

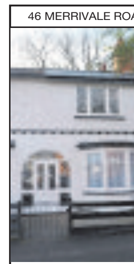
OFFERS BASED ON £74,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

QUEENS ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Superior architect designed
•Detached properties
•Quality fittings throughout
•Recently completed

GUIDE PRICE £320,000
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

46 MERRIVALE ROAD, BEARWOOD



•Superbly presented mid-terraced property
•Part double glazed and gas centrally heated
•Two double bedrooms & refitted bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room & refitted kitchen
•Neatly laid out garden to the rear
•Ideal FTBs
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £124,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

279 GALTON ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Recently refurbished freehold mid-terraced property
•Close to Lightwoods Park & Warley Woods
•Gas centrally heated
•PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Fully tiled bathroom with electric shower
•Three bedrooms and refitted bathroom with shower
•Two reception rooms and morning room
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £179,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

21 SISKIN CLOSE, OLDBURY

•Modern freehold detached residence
•Immaculate much improved centrally heated, double glazed & alarmed accommodation
•Three bedrooms, one en-suite & separate house bathroom
•Hall, fitted cloakroom, through lounge & excellent fully refitted open plan dining/kitchen
•Good size garden with off-street parking
•Pleasant residential close
•ADJOINING FREEHOLD BUILDING PLOT with planning permission for a new two bedroomed detached dormer bungalow
•ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £269,500
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

2 ETHEL STREET, LANGLEY

•End terraced property
•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Two double bedrooms
•Two reception rooms
•Fully tiled bathroom with shower
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

1 FERNDALE ROAD, OLDBURY

•Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms and fully tiled bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room and kitchen
•Verandah and fully tiled downstairs cloakroom
•Off-street parking
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £120,000
Viewing Bearwood Office

5 LOUIS COURT, SOUTH ROAD,

•Ground/first floor maisonette
•Part double glazed
•Electric storage heating
•Two bedrooms
•In need of refurbishment
•EPC : D

OFFERS BASED ON £49,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

5 SCRIBBANS CLOSE, SMETHWICK

•Three bedroomed maisonette
•Gas centrally heated
•Fully tiled bathroom
•In need of improvement
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON £51,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

3 REAR OF 31 EVA ROAD, WINSON

•Pedestrian walkway off Eva Road
•Easy access Birmingham city centre
•Centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Two bedrooms & fully tiled bathroom
•Lounge and kitchen/ breakfast room
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £74,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

7 CLARENCE COURT, OLDBURY

•Quiet cul-de-sac
•Gas centrally heated
•Three bedrooms
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Conservatory
•Off-street parking
•An ideal family home
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

AUCTION

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to enter our next sale on
MONDAY 1ST JUNE 2015

& which will include the following Lots:

26 Wilmington Road, Quinton, B32 1DX A traditional freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in need of refurbishment	£	125 - 135,000
36 Canalside, Winson Green, B18 4SN Beautifully refurbished freehold 3 bedroomed semi-detached in waterside setting	£	80 - 85,000
58 Cornwall Avenue, Oldbury, B68 0SW Freehold 3 bedroomed town house needing improvement	£	75 - 80,000
15 Dawson Street, Smethwick, B66 4JB Traditional 2 bedroomed terraced, requiring modernisation	£	75 - 80,000
1 Embassy Drive, Oldbury, B69 2ER Freehold 3 bedroomed end town house requiring improvement	£	70 - 80,000

73 QUEENSRIDGE COURT, OLDBURY

•Retirement home designated for over 60s
•35% SHARE
•PVC double glazed
•Under floor heating
•Two bedrooms
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : B

OFFERS BASED ON £28,875
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

170 WORLDS END LANE, QUINTON

•Freehold semi-detached property
•Gas centrally heated
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Two double bedrooms and bathroom
•Through lounge/dining room, Verandah & kitchen
•Gardens to front and rear with detached garage
•Off-street parking
•In need of cosmetic improvement
•ENERGY RATING : D

PURCHASE PRICE £99,995
VIEWING BEARWOOD OFFICE

70 GLADYS ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Freehold mid-terraced property
•Gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed
•Two double bedrooms
•Two reception rooms, refitted kitchen and refitted fully tiled bathroom
•Neatly laid out garden to the rear
•Ideal FTBs
•INTERNAL INSPECTION A MUST
•ALL SERIOUS OFFERS CONSIDERED
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

59 HURST ROAD, SMETHWICK

•Gas centrally heated and double glazed
•Three bedrooms
•Fully tiled bathroom
•Spacious lounge
•Kitchen/breakfast room
•Off-street parking for two cars
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £114,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

33 HICKORY DRIVE, EDGBASTON

•Quiet cul-de-sac off Willow Avenue
•Easy access to Birmingham city centre
•Ground floor 2 bedroomed maisonette
•PVC double glazed
•Refitted fully tiled shower room
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £99,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

35 DURHAM ROAD, ROWLEY REGIS

•Modern 2 bedroomed town house
•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Lounge and kitchen
•Gardens to front and rear
•Allocated parking
•Ideal FTBS
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : D

PURCHASE PRICE £79,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

18 MARTLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

•Self-contained first floor flat
•Close to the main Wolverhampton Road
•PVC double glazed
•Electric storage heating
•Two bedrooms
•Shower room
•In need of cosmetic improvement
•ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £69,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

6 JOHNSONS GROVE, OLDBURY

•Quiet cul-de-sac location
Link detached bungalow
•Virtually PVC double glazed throughout
•Gas centrally heated
Off-street parking
•Fully tiled shower room & separate cloakroom
•Lounge, refitted kitchen & conservatory
•Two/three bedrooms
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £187,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

83 POTTERY ROAD, OLDBURY

•Recently refurbished to a high standard.
•Freehold semi-detached property.
•Fully gas centrally heated and PVC double glazed.
•Three bedrooms, refitted bathroom.
•Hallway, spacious lounge, refitted kitchen/ breakfast room, downstairs cloakroom.
•Garden to the rear, and off-street for three cars to the front.
•Internal inspection a must.
•ENERGY RATING : D

OFFERS BASED ON £144,950
Viewings Bearwood Office

116 POPLAR AVENUE, EDGBASTON

Deceptively spacious family accommodation
•Gas centrally heated
Mahogany double glazing
•SIX bedrooms
Fully tiled bathroom & Downstairs shower room
•Two reception rooms
•Refitted kitchen/ dining room
•Utility/laundry room
•Spacious garden to the rear
•INTERNAL INSPECTION TO BE APPRECIATED
•ENERGY RATING : F

OFFERS BASED ON 249,950
Viewing Bearwood Office

58 WEDGEWOOD ROAD, QUINTON

•Gas centrally heated & PVC double glazed
•Three bedrooms & bathroom with electric shower
•Hall, lounge, dining room and kitchen
•Downstairs cloakroom
•Neatly laid out gardens to front and rear
•Ideal FTBs
•ENERGY RATING : C

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

32 THIMBLEMILL ROAD, BEARWOOD

•Original fittings to include fireplaces, door & windows
•Two double bedrooms and bathroom
•Lounge, dining room and kitchen
•Pleasant gardens
•Sympathetically improved
•Gas centrally heated
•ENERGY RATING : E

OFFERS BASED ON £119,950
VIEWINGS BEARWOOD OFFICE

OnTheMarket.com

www.derekspiresandco.com

Wednesbury
0121 5067670
16 Upper High Street, Wednesbury, WS10 7HQ

Goodchilds FOR SALE

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

Doulton Road, Rowley Regis
- Detached Property
- Four Bedrooms
- Double Garage
- Off Road Parking
- Downstairs W.C.
- Living Room

OIRO £219,950

Grayling Close, Wednesbury
- DETACHED
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- ENSUITE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- CONSERVATORY
- DINING ROOM

OIRO £189,995

Brookfield Way, Tipton
- DETACHED PROPERTY
- AMPLY OFF ROAD PARKING
- THREE RECEPTION ROOMS
- FOUR BEDROOMS
- REAR GARDEN
- OFFICE AREA
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.
- MUST VIEW

OIRO £187,500

Hollies Drive, Wednesbury
- Three Story
- Traditional Semi-detached house
- Entrance Hallway
- Three Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- Five Bedrooms

Offers in Excess of £185,000

Rough Hay Road, Wednesbury
- EXTENDED SEMI DETACHED HOUSE
- THREE STORYS
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- KITCHEN/BREAKFAST BAR
- CONSERVATORY
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C

£179,950

Aster Way, Walsall
- Three Bedroom
- Detached House
- Well Maintained
- Off Road Parking
- En-suite Bathroom
- Garage

OIRO £174,995

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Three Story
- Garage
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Viewing Advised

OIRO £140,000

£250 in your pocket*
if we don't sell your property in 43 days.

* Terms and Conditions Apply

SOLD IN 43 DAYS

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Call today for a FREE, no-obligation valuation

Pitchwood Close, Wednesbury
- SEMI-DETACHED
- THREE BEDROOM
- EN SUITE TO MASTER
- MODERN THROUGHOUT
- FITTED KITCHEN/DINER
- GROUND FLOOR W.C

OIRO £134,950

Hall Street East, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- TWO BATHROOMS
- KITCHEN
- LOUNGE
- LOUNGE/DINER

£130,000

Old Park Road, Wednesbury
- Terraced
- Three Bedrooms
- Open Plan Lounge Diner
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom

OIEO £124,950

Vicarage Road, West Bromwich
- MID TERRACE
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- LOUNGE/DINER
- FITTED KITCHEN
- THREE BEDROOMS

OIRO £127,000

Romulus Close, Birmingham
- Semi Detached House
- Three Bedrooms
- Large Lounge/Diner
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Off Road Parking

Guide Price £124,999

Wills Avenue, West Bromwich
- END TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- GARAGE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- DOWNSTAIRS W.C.

£120,000

Tame Street, West Bromwich
- Mid Terrace House
- Two Bedrooms
- Lounge/Diner
- Downstairs WC
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Private Parking

Offers in excess of £120,000

Coneygree Road, Tipton
- SEMI DETACHED
- ENTRANCE PORCH
- THREEE BEDROOMS
- RE STYLED KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- FRONT GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £110,000

Salter Road, Tipton
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOM
- KITCHEN/DINER
- MODERN FITTED BATHROOM
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- REAR GARDEN

Offers in Excess of £105,000

Toll End Road, Tipton
- Terraced Property
- Three Bedrooms
- Two reception rooms
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Rear Garden

OIRO £99,950

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Downstairs WC
- Family Bathroom
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating

Offers in Excess of £94,000

Queen Street, Wednesbury
- Semi Detached
- Three Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Rear Garden

Offers in Excess of £90,000

Moxley Road, Wednesbury
- MID TERRACE
- THREE BEDROOMS
- LOUNGE
- DINER
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- FITTED KITCHEN

£89,950

Damson Wharf, Tipton
- Three Bedroom Three Storey
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Family Bathroom & Downstairs WC
- Two Sold, One Left!
- Double Glazing and Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking & Garage
- Will Bring £560 PCM!

Offers in Excess of £88,000

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- TWO BEDROOMS
- ENSUITE
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE
- KITCHEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING
- MUST VIEW!

OIRO £87,950

Mark Road, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- THREE BEDROOMS
- KITCHEN
- DOWNSTAIRS BATHROOM
- UPSTAIRS SHOWER ROOM
- OFF ROAD PARKING
- REAR GARDEN
- DOUBLE GLAZING

Offers in Excess of £87,000

Holyhead Road, Wednesbury
- UPPER FLOOR FLAT
- ENTRANCE HALLWAY
- TWO BEDROOMS
- EN-SUITE TO MASTER
- FAMILY BATHROOM
- LOUNGE/DINER

OIRO £85,000

Booth Street, Wednesbury
- TERRACED PROPERTY
- ONE RECEPTION ROOM
- TWO BEDROOMS
- FULLY FITTED KITCHEN
- REAR GARDEN
- SECURE REAR PARKING

Offers in Excess of £84,000

Rugeley Close, Tipton
- FIRST FLOOR
- ONE BEDROOM
- PERFECT FOR FIRST TIME BUYERS
- LOUNGE
- FITTED KITCHEN
- FITTED BATHROOM

OIRO £59,950

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Wednesbury

0121 5067670

16 Upper High Street, Wednesbury, WS10 7HQ

Goodchilds TO LET

Goodchilds
Estate Agents & Lettings

Jasmine Way, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Semi Detached House
- Integral Garage
- Two Reception Rooms
- Utility and Downstairs WC
- Front and Rear Gardens
- Off Road Parking

Monthly Rental Of £600

Woden Road North, Wednesbury
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Located Near A School
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Rear Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £600

Orchard Rise, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms Ground Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Brand New
- Fitted Kitchen
- Electric Heating
- SORRY NO DHSS

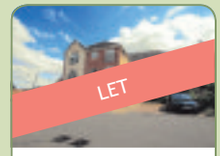
Monthly Rental Of £475

Dorsett Road, Wednesbury
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Open Fires in kitchen and Living Room
- Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Oberon Grove, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Fully Furnished
- Allocated Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450



The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedrooms First Floor Apartment
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Fitted Kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Vauxhall Road, Birmingham
- ONE BEDROOM FLAT
- GROUND FLOOR
- GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- SPACIOUS LOUNGE
- BATHROOM
- KITCHEN

Monthly Rental Of £450

Birmingham Road, Oldbury
- Three Bedroom Terraced House
- Two Reception Rooms
- Gas Central Heating
- Laminate Flooring Throughout
- Recently refurbished
- DHSS CONSIDERD

Monthly Rental Of £575

Wesley Grove, Wednesbury
- Three bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central heating
- Front and Rear gardens
- Recently Refurbished
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495

Carden Close, West Bromwich
- Two Bedroom Mid Terraced
- Large Rear Garden
- Front And Rear Access
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £475

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Rough Road, Birmingham
- Three Bedroom Mid Terrace House
- Gas Central heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Extended Kitchen
- DHSS Considered

Monthly Rental Of £575

Moxley Road, West Midlands
- Three Bedroom Semi detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £495

The Avenue, Wednesbury
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Apartment
- Ground Floor
- Fully Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing and Electric Heating
- Designated Parking
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Great Barr, West Midlands
- Two Bedroom Maisonate
- Fitted Kitchen
- Rear Garden
- Lounge
- Gas Central Heating
- SORRY NO DHHSS

Monthly Rental Of £450

Bloomfield Road, Tipton
- Two Bedroom Dormer Bungalow
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS CONSIDERED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Harvills Hawthorn, West Midlands
- Three Bedrooms Semi Detached House
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £450

Walsall Street, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- Double Glazing
- Secured Accses
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £400

King Street, Bilston
- Two Bedroomed Upper Floor Flat
- Spacious Throughout
- Modern Kitchen and Bathrooms
- Popular Location
- DHSS Considered
- Call Today!

Monthly Rental Of £375

Spring Head, Wednesbury
- One Bedroom First Floor Apartment
- NO PROCESS FEES
- ONE MONTHS DEPOSIT
- Off Road Parking
- Close amenities
- DHSS ACCEPTED

Monthly Rental Of £325

Warren Close, Tipton
- One Bedroom first Maisonette
- Double Glazing
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Perfect First Home
- SORRY NO DHSS

Monthly Rental Of £300

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Taylors

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SMETHWICK, Hugh Road

A chance to acquire a spacious, well presented, 3 bedroomed semi detached property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall (with downstairs shower room off), sitting room, spacious lounge/dining area, super re-fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom, feature loft space and rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE.

Offers around £164,950

OLDBURY, Eva Road

An attractively presented, thoughtfully improved, 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, fitted dining kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom and good sized rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK, White Road

A deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bedroomed intermediated terraced property most convenient for local shopping facilities, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Attractive lounge, dining/sitting room, kitchen, rear lobby (with downstairs wc off), 2 double bedrooms, spacious bathroom and pleasant rear gaarden. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £109,950

OLDBURY, Windsor Road

A deceptive, well proprtioned 3 bedroomed traditional style semi detached property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, majority double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, spacious through lounge/dining area, kitchen (with oven/hob), 3 bedrooms, attractive bathroom, rear garden and DOUBLE GARAGE at the rear. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC F. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price WAS £142,500 NOW £135,000

OLDBURY, Apollo Road

Spacious, thoughtfully improved 3 bed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Entrance hall, attractive lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen (with integral oven/hob), utility, downstairs bathroom, 3 good sized bedrooms and pleasant rear garden. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers in excess of £132,000

SMETHWICK, Queens Road

Deceptively spacious 3 bedroomed semi detached, conveniently situated, requiring some modernisation but offering potential, having majority double glazing, gas radiator heating and comprising :- Porch, entrance hall, through lounge, kitchen, inner vestibule area (with downstairs shower/wet room and wc off), lean to, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, separate wc, and good sized rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC D. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain **Offers around £119,950**

EDGBASTON, Selsey Road

Deceptively spacious, well presented, 2 bed mid terrace, occupying a pleasant position within this convenient neighbourhood, having gas radiator heating and comprising :- Entrance vestibule, delightful lounge, dining/sitting room, attractive kitchen, 2 good sized double bedrooms, spacious upstairs bathroom, pleasant rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED TO BE FULLY APPRECIATED. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £119,950

SMETHWICK, Clifton Road

Spacious, thoughtfully improved 3 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated, requiring internal inspection, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Attractive dining room, delightful lounge, fitted kitchen (with oven/hob), super downstairs bathroom, 3 bedrooms, and pleasant, low maintenance rear garden. MUST BE VIEWED, EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

Offers around £109,950

SMETHWICK, St. Albans Road

A chance to acquire a deceptively spacious, 2 bedroomed intermediate terraced property conveniently situated for local shopping facilities, having gas radiator heating, double glazing and comprising :- Front reception room, rear reception room, inner hall, kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, spacious upstairs bathroom, and rear garden. NO UPWARD CHAIN. VIEWING ESSENTIAL. EPC E. BEARWOOD OFFICE

New price WAS £102,000 NOW £99,950

OLDBURY, Titford Road

Deceptively spacious, well proportioned 2 bedroomed modern apartment, conveniently situated for local amenities and facilities, having double glazing, approached via a communal entrance and comprising :- Entrance hall (with intercom receiver), spacious open plan lounge/fitted kitchen area (having integral oven/hob), 2 bedrooms, bathroom and allocated parking space. NO UPWARD CHAIN. EPC B. BEARWOOD OFFICE

No upward chain **Offers around £94,950**

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MONMOUTH ROAD, SMETHWICK

EXTENDED & SPACIOUS home with DOUBLE GARAGE to rear & SOUTHERLY aspect. 29ft lounge diner & 18ft breakfast kitchen. UPVC CONSERVATORY & separate utility to rear. Benefits from d/s shower room WITH SAUNA!! 5 GOOD size bedrooms & LARGE family bathroom. Blockpaved driveway to front. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1580

£289,950 Ref: D1580

HOWLEY GRANGE RD, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED & detached family home in DESIRABLE area. Having 4 DOUBLE bedrooms & REFITTED family bathroom. 30ft lounge diner with separate study/playroom to front. REFITTED 12 ft kitchen with appliances & REFITTED 14ft utility room. UPVC conservatory to rear & downstairs WC. BLOCKPAVED driveway & SOUTH facing rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG. EPC rating: D Ref: D1533

£299,950 Ref: D1533

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED detached family home with LARGE PRIVATE rear garden. 18ft extended lounge & separate dining room. Extended 15ft breakfast kitchen, 19ft utility & downstairs shower room & WC. REFITTED family bathroom, 4 bedrooms & box room on 1st floor. GARAGE & BLOCKPAVED driveway. UPVC DG & gas central heating. EPC rating: D Ref: D1464

£254,950 Ref: D1464

WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY

DETACHED home with SOUTHERLY rear garden overlooking GOLF COURSE. 16ft lounge leading to 12ft dining area with 10ft CONSERVATORY to rear. FITTED 12ft10 kitchen with appliances. 3 bedrooms all over 12ft on 1st floor & family bathroom. BLOCKPAVED driveway to front leading to carport. Rear garden having 17ft outbuilding/games room/office. Gas central heating fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1562

£249,995 Ref: D1562

NEWBURY CLOSE, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Link detached home found in a CUL-DE-SAC position. GARAGE & driveway. In need of some general modernisation. Having 2 LARGE reception rooms & good sized kitchen. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Lawn garden with PRIVATE aspect. UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1593

£209,950 Ref: D1593

GRANGE ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - Ideal for modernisation & EXTENDING. Detached family home with EXTENSIVE lawn rear garden. 2 reception rooms & kitchen. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1595

£180,000 Ref: D1595

APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

EXTENDED home with LARGE DRIVEWAY to front & 16ft GARAGE. Benefits from EXTENDED 34ft lounge diner & EXTENDED 12ft kitchen with separate utility room. 3 good sized bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Lawn rear garden. GCH & UPVC DG fitted. EPC rating: D Ref: D1597

£179,950 Ref: D1597

COURT OAK ROAD, HARBORNE

MODERN ground floor apartment with PRIVATE gated GARDENS & CAR PARK. Open plan lounge diner with FITTED kitchen. Master bedroom with EN-SUITE shower room. 2nd DOUBLE bedroom & family bathroom. Rear terrace with communal lawn gardens. Gas central heating & double glazing fitted. EPC rating: TBC Ref: D1594

£175,000 Ref: D1594

STANLEY ROAD, OLDBURY

EXTENDED home with GARAGE & driveway. 14ft lounge & separate 13ft dining room. EXTENDED 12ft breakfast kitchen to rear. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. Gas central heating & majority UPVC double glazing. Lawn rear garden. EPC rating: E Ref: D1589

£174,950 Ref: D1589

WINDSOR ROAD, HALESOWEN

EXTENDED semi-detached home with elevated views to rear & DRIVEWAY to front. 18ft lounge diner to front & L-shaped 15ft EXTENDED breakfast kitchen to rear. REFITTED family bathroom & 3 bedrooms on first floor. Paved driveway giving off road parking. Patio & lawn garden with SUPERB views. GCH & majority double glazing fitted. EPC rating: E Ref: D1564

£147,500 Ref: D1564

PARK HILL, ROWLEY REGIS

IMMACULATE home with GARAGE in CUL-DE-SAC location with AMAZING panoramic views of Clent & Clee Hills to rear with sunny WESTERLY aspect. REFITTED kitchen with appliances & 14ft lounge diner. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom on 1st floor. UPVC double glazing & economy 7 heating fitted. EPC rating: E Ref: D1601

£143,000 Ref: D1601

LUDFORD ROAD, BARTLEY GREEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - well presented home with DRIVEWAY to front giving off road parking. REFITTED kitchen, 22ft lounge diner & side verandha. 3 bedrooms & family bathroom with white suite. Lawn gardens to front & rear. GCH & UPVC DG. The property is of none standard construction & is part concrete build. EPC rating: C Ref: D1600

£104,950 Ref: D1600

SLATCH HOUSE RD, SMETHWICK

NO CHAIN - Semi-detached home in need of some modernisation having 15ft lounge & 14ft kitchen diner. Benefits from d/s WC. 3 good size bedrooms ALL with fitted wardrobes & family bathroom on 1st floor. UPVC DG & GCH fitted. Front & rear gardens, CUL-DE-SAC position. EPC rating: E Ref: D1596

£99,995 Ref: D1596

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

WELL PRESENTED traditional terrace benefitting from 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & upstairs bathroom. 2 reception rooms, lobby, & EXTENDED breakfast kitchen. Majority UPVC double glazing & gas central heating. Cottage style rear garden. EPC rating: E Ref: D1592

£94,950 Ref: D1592

COOMBS ROAD, HALESOWEN

NO UPWARD CHAIN - 1st floor maisonette with PARKING to rear. 14ft lounge with WESTERLY views to rear, with kitchen to front. 2 DOUBLE bedrooms & fitted shower room. 13ft ATTIC room with velux windows & WC. Communal lawn gardens to rear. 99 year lease from June 1986. EPC rating: D Ref: D1570

£94,950 Ref: D1570

LONG LANE, HALESOWEN

NO CHAIN - REFURBISHED ground floor apartment with PARKING to rear. REFITTED kitchen with double doors leading to 12ft lounge with MODERN fittings. REFITTED bathroom with white suite & LED downlighters. DOUBLE bedroom with built in wardrobe. UPVC double glazing & electric heating. Communal lawn gardens. EPC rating: E Ref: D1573

£70,000 Ref: d1573

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NEW

Aldridge Close, Oldbury

Superbly Appointed Two Bedroomed Detached Bungalow, Popular Residential Cul-De-Sac Location, In Excellent Order Throughout. Viewing Essential. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Spacious Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen With Oven & Hob
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Two Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Pleasant And Well Tended Gardens
- Garage With Block Paved Driveway

Offers In The Region Of £185,000

NEW

Kendall Rise, Oldbury

Superb Three Bedroomed Detached Property, Situated Within This Popular Residential Cul-De-Sac, Easy Access To Local Schools, No Upward Chain EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Downstairs W/C, Utility Area
- Garage, Off Road Parking
- Gardens To Front & Rear
- In Need Of Some Cosmetic Updating

Offers In The Region Of £179,950

NEW

New Meeting Street, Oldbury

Luxury Modern Style First Floor Apartment Situated In Oldbury Town Centre, Easy Access To Local Amenities & Local Motorway/Rail Networks. EPC=C

- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Spacious Lounge/Diner
- Open Plan Fitted Kitchen
- Two Good Bedrooms
- Bathroom, En-Suite Shower Room
- Secure Parking Behind Electric Gates
- Viewing Absolutely Essential

TO LET: £575 PCM

NEW

Sabell Road, Smethwick

Deceptively Spacious Refurbished Traditional Style Terrace, Walking Distance To Local Smethwick High Street. EPC - E

- New Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Re-Fitted Kitchen
- Re-Fitted Downstairs Bathroom
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Rear Garden
- Realistically Priced For Early Let

TO LET: £525 PCM

NEW

Regis House, Cradley Heath

Situated Within "Regis House" Extremely Spacious Well Presented First Floor Flat, Walking Distance To All Local Amenities. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Lounge/Kitchen/Diner
- Cooker, Fridge/Freezer
- Double Bedroom
- Bathroom With Shower
- Secure Off Road Parking
- Viewing Recommended
- Realistically Priced For Early Let

TO LET: £350 PCM

Birch Road, Oldbury

Unique Opportunity To Acquire This Charming Spacious Two Bedroomed Detached Bungalow. Most Popular Residential Location, In Need Of Some Updating. No Chain EPC - C

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing (where specified)
- Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Bathroom
- Good Sized Rear Garden
- Rear Concrete Garage

Offers In The Region Of £185,000

Edward Road, Oldbury

Spacious Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Semi, Popular Residential Location, Catchment Area For Good Local Schools. EPC - D

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Two Reception Rooms
- Kitchen
- Pleasant & Well Tended Rear Garden
- Garage With Driveway
- NO CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £175,000

Defford Drive, Oldbury

Well Presented Traditional Style Three Bedroomed Extended Semi, Easy Access To Local Amenities And Local School. Viewing Recommended. EPC - E

- Gas Central Heating
- Double Glazing
- Separate Dining Room
- Extended Rear Lounge
- Extended Kitchen
- Three Bedrooms, Bathroom
- Pleasant Rear Garden
- Off Road Parking

Offers In The Region Of £150,000

Farm Road, Oldbury

Well Presented Extremely Spacious Three Bedroomed Traditional Style Terrace, Excellent First Time Purchase. EPC - D

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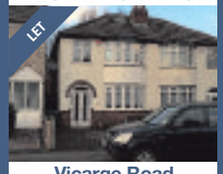

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Sandwell Chronicle Thursday, April 16, 2015

Something a little bit different

By Graham Breeze

Alfa Romeo is relying heavily on the motorist who is looking for a slice of Italian style to guarantee sales of the Mito and the 1.4 QV Line has that style in abundance.

The Mito is distinctive and really needs to be if it is to stand out in the company of Mini, Ford Fiesta, Volkswagen Polo and Audi A1 in the supermini sector.

On test was the 1.4Multiair QV 140bhp which for me is the pick of the bunch of three petrol and two diesel options.

The MultiAir 140bhp petrol engine impresses with its smoothness with a top speed of 130mph and 0-62mph in 8.1seconds. And with CO2 levels at 124g/km and average fuel consumption of over 52mpg it competes well in the sector.

Outwardly the Mito is about as distinctive as it gets. There's no halfway measures, you either like the look or you don't.

Badging

With the front number plate fixed on the left side rather than centre you know this is an Alfa long before it gets close enough to identify the distinctive badging. And with the test car standing on 18" Exclusive Quadrifoglio alloys it certainly attracts admiring glances.

Extras ojn the test model including electrically folding door mirrors and sunroof while sports kick plates, while the gloss burnished front grille, wing mirror covers, headlight surround and door handles are standard.

Front fog lights and stunning red brake callipers, a chrome tailpipe and chrome light surrounds all add to the exciting looks.

Inside you get the "wow" factor with darkened interior headlining, a flat bottomed black leather steering wheel and handbrake, impressive badging, steering wheel paddles and distinctive sports dials with white illumination.

It feels great behind the wheel with all the controls just where you would expect to find them and plenty of steering wheel adjustment to help you find the most comfortable position.

'It feels great behind the wheel with all the controls just where you would expect to find them.'

This Mito hits the road at £18,370 but with full leather upholstery, heated front seats, dual zone climate control, a visibility pack containing rain and dusk sensors, together with VP2 Uconnect with Bluetooth the test car would set you back £19,605.

You have to remember this is a supermini so space in the back is limited, though there is a 60/40 split to help extra luggage space when needed, though there aren't enough pockets inside.

The bigger wheels mean lots of tyre noise and there was enough wind noise to concern rear seat passengers on the motorway as well as complaints about hard seats.

Alfa will attract the buyers they need in the UK with this Mito and at the end of the day it will come down to whether buyers are looking for that something a little bit different for the model to be an even bigger success.

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Jeep is ready to compete

By Ian Donaldson

Jeep might be famous the world over for building cars that will climb mountains, but the brand is digging itself out of a pit that could have seen it sink into obscurity.

In Europe at least, where a Jeep spokesman admitted, as the latest model – the Renegade – was launched, "back in 2012 we were teetering on the edge."

Dealers were losing an average of more than £130,000 a year and lots of them jumped ship, heading for brands that might make them a decent living. Things, in short, could not have looked bleaker.

Well, what a difference three years can make. The car you are reading about today is not only the first Jeep to be built outside the United States (in Italy, actually) it is also confidently expected to quickly become by far the best selling Jeep in the UK, making dealers very happy indeed.

Built in the same Italian plant as the Fiat 500X and sharing important bits like engines and gearboxes, the Renegade is aimed squarely at the likes of the Nissan Juke and Mini Countryman; both cars that attract a fanatical following of owners happy to pay a solid price for a car that makes them feel good about themselves.

They inhabit a part of the car market (for smaller SUVs) that is expanding faster than a politician's election promises, as European buyers fall for the charms of cars that look a lot like unaffordable and wilderness conquering 4x4s but really cost little more to run than a family hatchback.

Credibility

The Jeep Renegade will do a fair impression of an Everest hero, even if its target audience – politely called "the young at heart" – never venture further off road than the field at the local car boot sale. Why, a fifth of buyers are expected to lease a car with their mobility allowance and most Renegades won't even be all-wheel drive.

What they all have, Jeep must hope, is a name that carries decades of credibility among people hankering after daily transport that rises above the merely practical.

With prices starting at £16,995 for a decently equipped 1.6 litre petrol model with air con, DAB radio, Bluetooth and alloy wheels, the Renegade looks convincing even before you turn the key in the ignition.

There are diesels to choose from too (Jeep thinks there might be an even-ish split on types of fuel) and four trim levels, all the way to the £27,995 Limited with 2.0 litre diesel engine, all-wheel drive and nine-speed automatic gearbox.

Most will hardly venture off road, but bold owners who opt for the 4x4 models will discover a car capable of taking a quite demanding series of hills and hollows, and a seashore being washed by an incoming tide, if they choose the route of the press drive for the newcomer, on the east coast of Scotland around North Berwick.

They might be more surprised (after all, Jeep is never backward in coming forward about the brand's off-road prowess) is the way the Renegade tackles a British side road; the heavier diesel in particular impressing with its gentle, quiet progress.

The 2.0 litre on test managed 39mpg (the notably slower but cheaper 1.4 litre petrol did 33mpg) and never felt lacking for power. It also presented an interior different enough to be interesting and just the right side of kitsch, with its little tributes to Jeep's heritage dotted about – 31 of them all told, from a red line on the rev counter marked like a smear of mud, to a tiny WWII Jeep outline on the windscreen surround.

The top ranking Renegade impressed. Here is a car to give the equally style conscious Nissan Juke a run for its money.

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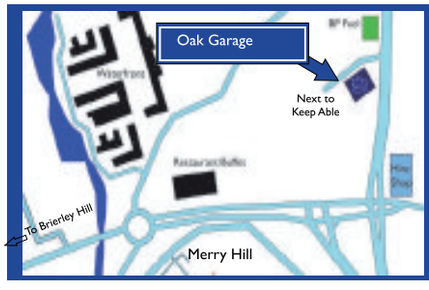

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Stand out from the crowd in Lexus NX

By Iain Dooley

Not feeling the love for the current crop of streamlined, me-too compact premium SUVs? Lexus might have the answer with its radically-styled NX 200t

Lexus, the premium arm of Japanese car maker Toyota, slowly continues to grow its line-up with the addition of a compact crossover model rivalling the likes of Range Rover's Evoque and Audi's Q5. And in a change in direction from its conservative offerings from the recent past, visually this new NX could never be described as conservative; its edgy appearance easily sets it apart from its less edgy rivals and the rest of the Lexus range.

And it's not just the car's looks that are a departure from the norm.

Lexus might be well known for its hybrid models, but this particular NX boasts a new 2.0-litre turbo petrol engine. Lexus is pitching this 200t model as a mildly sporting variant, and is reinforcing this decision by selling the car in visually arresting F Sport trim.

Lexus isn't exactly famous for producing radical-looking cars. To date, its offerings have presented a more conservative face to the world than its main rivals. This has ensured success in its main markets, but the 'edgy' NX is tasked with appealing to a younger audience. And good luck finding a curve; this compact SUV possesses more straight lines than a ruler factory, which certainly helps it stand out from the less adventurous crowd in the supermarket car park or outside the school gates. Yes it's an SUV and yes, in 200t guise, it comes with all-wheel drive – but don't expect any Land Rover-like heroics.

Spacious

Despite being labelled a 'compact' SUV, the NX is a pleasingly spacious and versatile machine. For a five-door, five-seat car its cabin offers adult occupants ample space in a suitably plush environment. Oddment storage space is good and, if you've got the right kit, there's even provision to wirelessly charge a mobile phone.

At the back, the car's raised ride height pays off in the form of a usefully high boot load lip, making it ideal for when you're shifting bulky or heavy items.

Lexus is pitching this particular NX as a sporty model, which explains the presence of a 235 horsepower 2.0-litre turbo petrol motor in lieu of the usual petrol-electric hybrid set-up. The F Sport trim level should be another clue, which adds subtle design add-ons that help to boost the car's visual appeal further. As if to reinforce Lexus' desire to position this NX as driver-centric, the car comes with all-wheel drive as standard.

The end result is a wiling companion that proves more agile than its SUV underpinnings suggest. The emphasis is still very much on comfort and refinement but the car's turbo motor doesn't disappoint when you want to have some fun. Direct steering, predictable gear changes from the auto 'box and a firm but measured ride all work well together.

Lexus has been generous with the amount of kit that's available for this NX. True to form, there's electric everything plus keyless entry and ignition, parking sensors, a premium audio unit and a plush interior trimmed in quality materials. You'll need to dig a little deeper if you want one of the two sat-nav options but that's about it.

On paper, then, this NX 200t shames its immediate rivals in the creature comfort department. Being petrol only it can't quite match its hybrid stablemate or diesel rivals for outright economy and CO_2, although low mileage private buyers are unlikely to view this as a major issue.

Not a fan of hybrid or diesel engines and prefer straight lines to curves? If so, this rather adventurously styled NX in 'petrol only' guise might suit your needs. On the whole it's well-equipped, while its sporty look mostly translates into a sporty driving experience. If you want some fun behind the wheel of a compact SUV this turbo petrol NX offers a brisk and entertaining experience. Plus there's no shame in wanting to stand out from the crowd, which is something you'll struggle to achieve in the car's many European rivals.

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Price is right for package that's well put together

By Bill McCarthy

As the name Great Wall Motors Company implies, it is a Chinese vehicle manufacturer and still pretty anonymous outside its homeland.

That became apparent when anyone inspecting the Steed asked: "What is it?"

Great Wall is one of China's largest automotive manufacturers and with the launch of the Steed pick-up in 2012, it became the first manufacturer from that country to commence volume vehicle sales in the United Kingdom.

Revamped for 2015, it offers the cheapest pick-up vehicle on the market in the UK, with plenty on offer for a bargain basement £14,998 as a commercial vehicle on the road price (CVOTR).

It also comes with a six-year, 120,000 mile warranty reasonable running costs. It must be half-decent, a million have been sold worldwide.

Despite being a pick-up workhorse, it does not lack in the looks area, despite its boxy, out of necessity, appearance. It looks upmarket with the stylish paintwork, high set headlamps, a deep grille and airscoop, built-in driving lights built into the bumpers giving it an individual look, as does the never-recognised Great Wall badge.

Just like many of its competitors, it is designed to be as much a 'life-style' kind of vehicle as an off-road all-wheel drive workhorse/load lugger. So it can ferry the family's wet and muddy paraphernalia or pets around as well as lugging bricks, building materials or farm equipment with its one-tonne payload.

For family use, fixing some nets and stays in the load area would be a good idea to stop stuff flying around, while access is through the hard top is via a rear window and a heavy drop down tailgate, which is robust enough to be stood on.

The firm says it has been designed to meet European safety standards and with a price which seriously undercuts the opposition.

You would think with a bargain basement price, it would be bargain basement quality, but the big vehicle proved surprisingly well put together, generously equipped and performed very well.

Flexible

The double cab is well laid out, if looking more dated than the exterior, with leather finish and logically placed buttons, dials and stalks. Some of the fixtures and fittings however, do not match the quality of some of its more established rivals.

Powered by a flexible and torquey 140bhp two-litre diesel engine, mated to a slightly vague, six-speed gearbox, it is a willing worker, if a bit raucous under acceleration. It is reasonably economical and is pretty cheap to insure as well. Claimed economy is 32.8mpg with CO2 emissions competitive at 222g/km.

Braked towing capacity is decent, if not class leading with 2.5 tonne capacity available.

On the road, the car rides reasonably comfortably, although it gets jiggly over rougher roads and responds well to the steering wheel. A long, 100-mile drive proved surprisingly pleasant given the hard suspension.

Switching to off-road is done manually with both high and low ratio four-wheel drive available.

The S entry model includes 16" alloy wheels, a leather interior, individually heated seats, Alpine CD/USB/RDS Radio and electric windows throughout. The Steed SE tested here has a £2k premium and adds gets the body-coloured hard top canopy, rear parking sensors, a cargo load-liner and chrome sidebars as well the the useful running boards and roof bars.

All models come with twin airbags, an anti-lock braking system and electronic brake force distribution for added protection.

Lack of a large network of dealers is a drawback, but it is cheap to buy, economical to run, well equipped and stylish, plus that six-year warranty.

What's not to like?

TESTED

Great Wall Steed SE 2.0 TDI

Price: £16,998 (CVOTR); £20,341 (OTR)

Mechanical: 140bhp, 1,968cc diesel engine driving all wheels via 6-speed manual gearbox

Max speed: 87mph

Payload: 1.050 tonnes

Towing: 2.5 tonnes

Combined mpg: 32.8

Insurance group: 88

CO2 emissions: 222g/km

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Models shown for illustrative purposes only. **Terms and Conditions:** 37 months 0% APR Representative (interest rate per annum 0.0% fixed). Minimum customer deposit 0%, maximum customer deposit 30%. You do not have to pay the Final Payment if you return the car at the end of the agreement and you have paid all other amounts due, the vehicle is in good condition and has been serviced in accordance with the Honda service book and the maximum annual mileage has not been exceeded. Indemnities may be required in certain circumstances. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over, subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc. Cain Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1HL. Honda Finance Europe Plc is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority, Financial Services Register number 312541. **5 Years Servicing Option is available for £500 and includes:** all scheduled servicing as detailed in the vehicle service book for 5 years or 62,500 miles, whichever comes first. Servicing Option of £500 is inclusive of VAT (usual value £1,430 including VAT, resulting in a £930 saving) is only available on vehicles purchased through Honda Aspirations. Please note, should you sell the vehicle during the period of cover, the cover remains with the vehicle. Offer available between the 1 April 2015 and 30 April 2015 inclusive on participating models between 90 and 180 days old, with a starting mileage of 50 miles or less.

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3 Home & Services

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4 Pets & Animals

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5 Business & Farming

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The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust

Nurses Recruitment Day on: Saturday 25 April at 10.00am to 3.00pm

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If so, then The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust is home to a great team; one that is well established, stable and enjoys a strong reputation for delivering excellent care.

We also, as an employer, aim to ensure you benefit both personally and professionally from a balanced approach to work and provide all the support you need to be comfortable and confident in your role.

Our vision and values play an important role in describing the principles and beliefs that underpin the way in which we do business. They provide the checks and balances to make sure that all our plans improve the experience for our patients.

Patients are at the centre of all we do.
Working together we deliver top quality services.
We will be innovative in how we work.
We create an environment in which people thrive.

The Trust will be holding a Nurse Recruitment Open Day on:
Saturday 25th April, 10.00 to 3.00pm in the Wolverhampton Medical Institute, Building 11, at New Cross Hospital and our passion, drive and ambition to keep getting better will be plain to see.

We are looking for experienced nurses for the following areas:

- **General Medicine**
- **Care of the Elderly**
- **Trauma & Orthopaedics**
- **General Surgery**
- **Theatres**
- **Cardiology**
- **Acute Surgical Unit**
- **Community Midwives**

There will be an opportunity on the day for potential applicants as part of the interview process to complete a short drug calculation test.

Why not come along and see what we have to offer.
For more information please visit:
www.jobs.nhs.uk job reference number 225-B5APR2015
Or contact Nurse Recruitment at
rwh-tr.NurseRecruitmentBureau@nhs.net

COMMERCIAL FEATURE

NHS opportunities

With an operating budget of almost £480 million, the Trust is one of the largest integrated acute and community providers in the West Midlands.

It has more than 800 beds on the New Cross site including intensive care beds and neonatal intensive care cots and 82 rehabilitation beds at West Park Hospital.

As the second largest employer in Wolverhampton, the Trust employs more than 7,000 staff.

The Trust provides its services from the following locations:

New Cross Hospital

Secondary and tertiary services, maternity, accident & emergency, critical care and outpatients.

West Park Hospital:

Rehabilitation inpatient and day care services, therapy services and outpatients.

More than 20 community sites – community services for children and adults, walk in centres and therapy and rehabilitation services.

Clinical Services

The Trust has a comprehensive clinical service portfolio across community, secondary and tertiary services.

The range of specialties is shown below:

Radiology
Pathology
ITU/Anaesthetics/Theatres
Cardiothoracic
General Surgery
Urology
Trauma & Orthopaedics
Obstetrics and Gynaecology
Ophthalmology
Head and Neck
Children's Services
Adult Community Services
Rehabilitation

The trust is holding a recruitment day on April 25 from 10am-3pm

Care of the Elderly
Stroke
Neurology
Rheumatology
Sexual Health
Dermatology
Respiratory
Diabetes
Gastroenterology

Cannock Chase Hospital

- General surgery (examples include hernia repair and gall bladder surgery).
- Orthopaedics (includes hip, knee, foot, ankle and upper limb surgery).
- Breast surgery (not cosmetic).
- Urology (includes bladder and kidney).
- Dermatology/plastic surgery (removal of lumps and lesions).

The following medical day case investigations and treatment will also take place at Cannock Chase Hospital for adults within the populations served by the Trust:

- A new endoscopy suite is being built that will provide a dedicated area for patients to receive a wider range of investigations and treatments than are currently available.
- A new musculoskeletal unit for rheumatology patients is being built – providing a greater range of services for more patients. It will also see an increase in clinical research – helping to develop new treatments for this debilitating condition.
- The dermatology department, including phototherapy, intensive topical skin treatments, will be refurbished to provide a better environment.

A nurses recruitment day takes place on Saturday, April 25 in the Wolverhampton Medical Institute, Building 11, at New Cross Hospital.

For more information visit the site at www.jobs.nhs.uk job reference number 225-B5APR2015. Alternatively, contact Nurse Recruitment through rwh-tr.NurseRecruitmentBureau@nhs.net

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For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to
Marie Hogg on 01902 713146 or email marie.hogg@expressandstar.co.uk
(remember to include a name/contact number for confirmation of receipt)

I, Bulbinder Kumar of Bali Stores 175 Great Bridge Great Bridge B70 0DJ Herby give notice I have applied under S17 Licensing and in accordance with S12 Licensing Act 2003 for a Premises Licence for the above mentioned premises, namely For the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises, namely
MON _ SUN 06:00- 23:00
Any person wishing to make a representation regarding the application must do so in writing to, SANDWELL M.B.C TRADING STANDARDS LICENSING TEAM UNIT 33 CONEYGREE ROAD TIPTON DY4 8XR not later than 28TH April 2015. (Licensing_Team@sandwell.gov.uk)) A copy of the application may be inspected during normal business hours.
It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale, under section 158 of the licensing act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.
PMB LICENSING
AUTHORISED AGENTS
DATED 31th March 2015

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL
Regeneration and Economy
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended)
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010

I hereby give notice that Sandwell Council has received the following applications under the planning acts which it is required to give public notice for the reason given at the beginning of each group of applications.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58087	Carillion Construction Ltd.	The Phoenix Collegiate Clarkes Lane West Bromwich B71 2BX	Proposed demolition of existing school buildings and erection of new school; extension to and refurbishment of existing sports hall; refurbishment of existing teaching block L; new energy centre; new muga (multi use games area); associated car parking, covered cycle storage, fencing and landscaping.

This is a major application.

DC/15/58016	Junction Propco SARL	Gallagher Retail Park Axletree Way Wednesbury	Proposed 3 No. restaurants (Use Class A3) with car parking, landscaping and associated works.

Members of the public may inspect copies of these applications at Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands, B69 3DE

(between 8.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 9.00a.m. and 5.30p.m. Wednesday and 8.00a.m. to 5p.m. Friday) or via the Council's Public Access website (www.sandwell.gov.uk).

Anyone who wishes to make representations about these applications can do so via the website, or should write to the Council at the above address within 21 days (and 21 days for Listed Building or Conservation Area consent) of the date of this advertisement quoting the application reference number.

MR NICK BUBALO, Area Director – Regeneration and Economy

RITA HAWKER (Deceased)
Pursuant to the Trustee Act 1925 any persons having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of the aforementioned deceased, late of 31 Jubilee Street West Bromwich West Midlands B71 2DQ, who died on 27/10/2014, are required to send particulars thereof in writing to the undersigned Solicitors on or before 17/06/2015, after which date the Estate will be distributed having regard only to claims and interests of which they have had notice.
Dorothy Cavanagh
BACHES SOLICITORS LLP
Lombard House
Cronehills Linkway West Bromwich
West Midlands B70 7PL *T437701*

10 Personals

personal

FREE TEXT MESSAGES from women wanting discreet ADULT FUN! Call 01216 202445 for full details. Discretion assured!

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Photo appreciated (returned).
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sports clubs

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We are looking for Players between 7 and 14 years old in all positions and we are also looking for Coaches and Volunteers to work with new and existing teams.
Call Leighton on 0794 3805331.

general

HAVE YOU CHECKED your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

The Borough Council of Sandwell (Firs Lane, Smethwick) (Temporary Road Closure) Order 2015, intends to temporarily prohibit any vehicles from proceeding along Firs Lane, Smethwick between High Street and Arden Road. The maximum duration is 18 months, but the work is expected to be completed by 01/05/15, effective from 27/04/15. Traffic will be diverted via Watery Lane, Arden Road and vice- versa on the south of the closure and on the north side via Firs Lane, Coopers Lane, High Street and vice-versa. The provisions of The Sandwell Borough Council (Firs Lane, Smethwick) (One-Way Traffic) Order 1982 in so far as it relates to the one-way operation of Firs Lane. Purpose – new water connection to 278 High Street by South Staffs Water.

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*SOURCE: Jicreg 01.10 .2012. Private advertisers only.

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ClassifiedAds

star extra TRAVEL

*Choose your show, price band*and how you want to travel*

Coach inclusive breaks – Two days

Selected weekend departures
Saturday Night from £139.95 **Theatre Weekend with Dinner from £149.95**
Take in a top West End show and have some free time in London for shopping and sightseeing. For the Theatre Weekend with Dinner option see the matinee performance before heading to the hotel for an evening meal. For the Saturday Night option see the evening performance. For both breaks the price includes a theatre ticket and an overnight stay in a four-star outer London hotel with full English breakfast.
Pick ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

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Departures most weekends
Saturday Night Theatre from £159.95
Catch the Theatre Express and enjoy a super two-day weekend break in the capital. There's a choice of London hotels and your ticket is for a Saturday evening performance. Rail travel is standard class with the option to upgrade. Departs Saturday morning/early afternoon from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton, returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening to give plenty of free time for shopping and sightseeing.

Theatre Showstopper from £229.95
This popular theatre package to the West End departs from Birmingham New Street, Shrewsbury, Stafford or Wolverhampton on the Friday morning returning on the Sunday afternoon/early evening. Standard class travel is included with the option to upgrade plus two nights stay at a three or four-star London hotel of your choice (hotel supplements may apply). Includes a top price ticket for a Friday evening performance.

**The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details.*
Single rooms subject to availability – supplement applies.

Organised by Omega Events Ltd (ABTA Y590X)

For a theatre brochure please call the promotions team on (01902) 319999 (Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm), or go to expressandstar.com/starextratravel
Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions

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• Building & property maintenance
• Landlords/commercial work undertaken
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Builders

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Was £22 sq yd *Now Only* £8.99 sq yd	*From Only* £8.99 sq yd	*from* £4.59 sq yd	£4.50 sq yd
Special Offer only 6 left. Double memory beds plus *free* matching headboard RRP £799 Now only £250	Divan Beds Single from £96 Double from £160	Quality Double Memory Foam bed *RRP Was £899* Now £299	Luxury Supreme Double bed *RRP £899* Now £360

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3 Post to... Sonu Bennings, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

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A CHEAP RUBBISH REMOVAL 7 DAYS
Small Jobs
NO PROBLEM
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SHAW ROAD, DUDLEY DY2 8TP

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2 E-mail us at... sonu.bennings@expressandstar.co.uk
3 Post to... Sonu Bennings, Sandwell Chronicle, Black Lake Regional Centre, West Bromwich B70 0QB

Making Friends

Women seeking men

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. Texts cost £1.50 per message sent.

KAREN medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429**

DISCREET lady, 42yrs wants to make you happy, come to me and let me do that for you. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 409901**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

TARA, confident lady, long legs, long hair, seeks a saucy man of any age for daytime, no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1913 Box No: 414701**

MARIA gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861**

SUSAN 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

STELLA 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707**

PAULA 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing male. Call if you feel the same. ACA **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681**

VAL 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601**

EILEEN 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521**

CHRISTINE 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519**

PRETTY slim female, 48, N/S, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel No: 0905 002 1883 Box No: 413399**

THELMA, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979**

ADVENTUROUS sexy lady, 38yrs, married but seeks no strings fun with discreet man, any age. I'm tall, slim and dominant. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1937 Box No: 415301**

DAWN attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLTM well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917**

MID naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets, give me a call, you wont be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109**

ANNE, mid 40's, cheerful busty cuvy affectionate real woman! Seeks gent, any age or looks for nights at mine. **Tel No: 0905 002 1953 Box No: 410291**

SHELLY 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235**

KATHERINE 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197**

FEMALE fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287**

PAT 5ft 2ins, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/S, sincere gent for friendship and days out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057**

ALICE 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087**

DIANE 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085**

BRIDGET 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083**

BEAUTIFUL full figured, down to earth black woman, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499**

SINCERE lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/S, car owner and likes a dog. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471**

KAREN 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337**

JUNE 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLTM attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299**

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MALE 60, N/S, average looks, black hair, likes meals out, seeks female, 50-70, looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383425**

TALL, dark, slim, attractive guy, 48, seeks attractive female for no strings fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 299904**

ATTRACTIVE male, late 40's, seeks attractive female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 311713**

TALL, dark, attractive guy 50, seeks attractive, tactile female for fun, excitement and lots of attention. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 314219**

MALE 57, seeking female, any age/looks for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416779**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

VICTOR, retired, 5ft 8ins, professional, seeks N/S lady for fun, friendship and happy times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 309157**

MALE 63, N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416817**

KEV 49, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, seeks female, any age for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384372**

52YR old male, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391199**

54YR old male, dark hair, blue eyes, average build, likes nights in/out, seeking similar female, any age. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416747**

SHROPSHIRE male, 50, tall, dark, attractive, fun loving, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 341387**

TALL attractive Shrewsbury male, 54, seeks attractive female for fun and excitement in the daytime. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 411823**

MALE young 62, medium build, likes sports, golf, holidays, food, beer, seeks lady for nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416643**

WIDOWER 70's, lonely, educated, well travelled, reliable, tactile, seeks fun, N/S lady for friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416481**

BLUE eyed male, black hair, 6ft 4ins, likes football, nights out, farming, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416341**

PAUL 56, works part time, seeking nice lady, 55-65 with GSOH, honest, genuine and understanding. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416017**

MALE young 62, medium build, likes sports, golf, holidays, food, beer, seeks lady for nights out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416643**

GLYNN 49, young looking, seeks black female, 21-30 for loving relationship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416603**

STEVEN 64, WLTM princess to see if the frog kiss really works, caring, considerate, N/S preferred. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416417**

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On-screen tribute to ex-Baggie

TRIBUTES have been paid to former Albion forward Ray Treacy, who has died aged 68.

The former Ireland international died last Friday (April 10), following a short illness and a message in tribute appeared on screens around the Hawthorns during Saturday's 3-2 defeat to Leicester.

Born in Dublin, Treacy began his career in Ireland with Home Farm before joining the Baggies in the same intake of players which included 'Bomber', the legendary Tony Brown.

Treacy made his debut in 1966, scoring in a 2-2 draw against Sunderland at Roker Park.

But the presence of Jeff Astle and John Kaye in the same team meant his chances at the Hawthorns were always limited and he would make only five appearances before moving to Charlton in 1968.

Spells at Swindon and Preston would follow in the intervening eight years before he returned to the Hawthorns to take his place in Johnny Giles' newly-promoted team.

Capped

Treacy scored six goals as Albion re-established themselves in the top flight during the 1976-77 season before he departed once more, this time for good, as he returned to Ireland with Giles to join Shamrock Rovers.

In total he made 26 appearances for the Baggies, scoring seven goals, while he was also capped 42 times by his country.

He was player/manager at Drogheda United for two seasons and then managed Home Farm.

Treacy was granted a testimonial against the full national side in May 1989. He was part of the controversial but unsuccessful attempt to install a club to be named Dublin City into the Scottish Second Division in the 1990s.

He returned to Shamrock Rovers as manager in 1992 and was at the helm for four years, winning the League of Ireland title on one occasion.

Treacy also ran a travel business which he retired from in 2009.

Benteke is on red alert for Wembley semi-final

VILLA striker Christian Benteke says he is ready to fire his side to cup final glory at Wembley.

The past 12 months have not been the easiest for the Belgian. Six months out with a torn Achilles tendon, followed by a return which could be at best described as sluggish, had some wondering whether his Villa career had seen its best days, at the age of just 24.

But the past few weeks have seen Benteke re-establish himself as one of the the Premier League's most dangerous forwards. Eight goals in six games have helped blast Villa towards safety and seen the striker rediscover his swagger.

Now, he wants to perform on his biggest stage yet.

Villa are rank outsiders to turn over the odds-on Liverpool in Sunday's semi-final. Yet Benteke is not sure the gulf is quite so wide.

He said: "Liverpool are a good team but the thing with the FA Cup is it's still something special. It's 50-50 for me but some will say they are favourites.

"Wembley is something good and special because it's a semi final, it's close to the final and we have to do everything to be there again."

Benteke isn't the only striker to have flourished under Tim Sherwood. Gabby Agboblahor has managed to double his tally for the season and more importantly added an element of pace and direction to the attack which had been lacking in the dying days of Paul Lambert's reign.

And according to former Villa defender Martin Keown, having both strikers fit and firing will be critical to claret and blue hopes of causing an upset.

Visitors pay price for poor decisions

Bloxwich 12 Wednesbury 10

THE last game of the season was a tough and bruising encounter, but it was a very poor game, which saw the visitors pay the price for indiscipline and poor decision making.

As is the norm in local derbies this was a tough game made worse by poor refereeing.

Once again Wednesbury's pack had the better of their opponents, controlling the scrum and lineout.

Wednesbury spent a large proportion of the game near the Bloxwich line pushing them back but were unable to make their dominance pay off – until the 30th minute when Wednesbury were awarded a scrum 15 metres from the Bloxwich line. They drove their opposition back towards the try line and John McGregor picked the ball up from the base of the scrum and dived over the line for the try, which was not converted.

Their lead was short lived as Bloxwich were awarded a scrum five metres from the try line and pushed Wednesbury back over the line for a try, Danny Palmer adding the conversion to give them the lead.

The second half saw Wednesbury keep pushing their opponents back but were unable to capitalise on their dominance.

Scrappy

Wednesbury's front row of Dan Blake, Josh Harris and Luke Pittaway had the better of their opposite numbers throughout the game, the Allwood twins Lee and Jordan performed well in the lineout.

The game became bogged down and very scrappy until the 75th minute when Brad Russell capitalised on a mix-up in the Wednesbury defence to race over the line for a try.

With seconds remaining, Wednesbury's pack pushed Bloxwich back, Dan Blake finishing off the move for a try. The visitors needed the conversion to draw but Dan Till's kick drfited wide.

This game was the last for two of Wednesbury's players Tom Huggins and John McGregor moving onto pastures new and the club wishes them both well. Tom has been at Wednesbury for three seasons as a player and coach John as been a Wednesbury player for 12 years.

Moeen delight at Wisden award

Moeen Ali has been in fine form with both the bat and ball since being called up for England

WORCESTERSHIRE and England star Moeen Ali told of his delight at being named a Wisden Cricketer of the Year.

Legends Kumar Sangakkara and Sachin Tendulkar have both made the prestigious five-man list in previous years

Ali, aged 27, who made the latest edition alongside Warwickshire spinner Jeetan Patel, Yorkshire batting duo Gary Ballance and Adam Lyth and Sri Lankan skipper Angelo Matthews, said: "I'm so happy. It's a great achievement."

Ali has enjoyed a memorable 12 months after making his full international breakthrough last February on a West Indies tour.

He has since become a regular member of the England side in all formats, and he scored his maiden Test hundred against Sri Lanka at Headingley. He also filled the spinning role in the series win over India, and scored ODI hundreds against Sri Lanka and then, in the World Cup, against Scotland.

"I want keep going and to keep playing and I feel like I'm improving a lot," Ali said.

A special leatherbound copy of the book was presented to him at the Wisden dinner in the Long Room at Lord's.

Grounds for appeal as Tivi face relegation

Tividale 3 Carlton 0

TIVIDALE did a four-day double over Carlton with a 3-0 home victory and in doing so stretched their unbeaten league run to 10.

Danny Ashton grabbed the first, cutting in from the left and ghosting past two defenders before firing into the bottom left corner.

The second came when Zach Foster showed Alexander Troke a clean pair of heels and fired in a cross touched home by Karl Edwards. A late David Bellis rocket from 25 yards rounded off the scoring.

Tividale, however, face relegation from the Northern League after officials ruled their Packwood Road ground is not up to scratch.

The club is to appeal the decision.

The club has declined to comment but officials fear their Midland location has counted against them remaining in the fourth tier of non-league football.

A ground grading committee from the Northern League and the FA refused them the 'grade D' status they need to stay in the Northern League Division One South, reportedly on health and safety grounds. They now face relegation back to the Midland Football League despite sitting pretty in the table.

Tivi won promotion from the Midland Alliance – which has since been absorbed into the new Midland Football League – last season and were given a year to meet the requirements for grade D.

It is understood the bid for grade D status was rejected on health and safety grounds, but Tividale believe they have resolved the issues concerned.

First team in winning start to campaign

Warwick & Worcester Premier Division 1 Bowls – Maggies B.C. 210 The George 232

THE first team got the season off to a great start winning away at Maggies B.C.

The opening four gave The George a commanding 25 shot lead and wins by Jamie Dunn and Steve Dicken kept The George 16 shots in front. The back four completed a 22 shot victory.

South Staffs Premier Division – The George 217 Windmill 202

THE second team overcame a strong Windmill side to record a 15 shot home win.

Warwick & Worcester Alliance Division 1 – The George 200 West Brom F.S.C. 205

THE third team, newly promoted to division one lost at home to West Brom F.S.C. by five shots.

Boss Drury looks to open with victory

BIRMINGHAM team manager Graham Drury says his side need to get off to a winning start when they take on the Rye House Raiders at Perry Barr next Wednesday.

The 7.30pm meeting will be the 'Surestop' Brummies' National League opener – but they'll be without two of their heat-leaders.

Sam Chapman suffered a nasty hand injury whilst on Premier League duty and Adam Ellis has returned to his home in France following a family bereavement.

The Brummies will operate the Rider Replacement facility at No.3 while they have booked Coventry's Dan Greenwood to deputise at No.1

"It's not an ideal situation but I have faith in the six riders who will race for Birmingham Speedway that they can go out there and battle their way to a win," said Drury.

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Stand up and be counted, says Lecscott

DEFENDER Joleon Lescott believes Albion need a shock result to stay in the Premier League after a dismal end to 'Jeff Astle Day' left them still fearing relegation.

Lescott reckons Albion's current haul of 33 points will not be enough to keep them in the top flight after they twice surrendered the lead to lose 3-2 to Leicester on an emotional Saturday at The Hawthorns. Defeat meant a sad end to a day of events to pay tribute to Hawthorns legend Jeff Astle.

And that leaves the Baggies needing a surprise result from their daunting run-in, which starts on Saturday with a trip in in-form Crystal Palace.

"We need more points – we can't rely on others not getting results," said the former England man.

"We need to dig in. The way it stands, it's in our hands and that's the way you want it to be.

"If you ask the teams below us which position they'd rather be in, they'd say ours.

"Hopefully we will be OK, but the nitty gritty is that it's not about performances or anything like that, it's about results.

"We have to go into every game with a cup final mentality. Every game's a cup final now, that's the way we've been thinking but it's probably hitting home now that we're in the mix.

"We've got the resilience to kick on and get a result next week."

The Baggies head for Selhurst Park on Saturday before facing Liverpool, Manchester United, Newcastle, Chelsea and Arsenal in their final five games.

"The last six games are going to be vital now," said Lescott. "But we have to stand up and be counted."

Hughes throws winning darts as England edge it

TIPTON'S Jamie Hughes threw the match-winning darts that saw England scrape through to claim the BDO British International championship.

'Yozza' took out a splendid 136 to secure a 4-1 win over Steve Alker in the second contest of the weekend against Wales. It gave his country the victory on legs difference with Hughes, earning his fourth and fifth cap in the two games, shining at a pivotal time with 12 and 13-dart finishes along the way.

The 29-year-old, who made his World Championship debut this year, was part of a team captained by reigning Lakeside champion Scott Mitchell.

England had faltered against Scotland, at the Penydarren Social Club in Merthyr Tydfil, eventually drawing 6-6.

Against Wales, Mitchell got his side off to the perfect start with a 4-1 win over Nick Kenny as the first six games were shared, before England roared ahead.

Martin Atkins, Paul Hogan, Gary Thompson and Hurrell put them in command, before Dafydd Williams broke the sequence. It was left to Hughes to get England over the line, obliging with just one leg dropped.

Pulis now more of a mellow yeller

Football

Hawthorns head coach Tony Pulis

ALBION boss Tony Pulis insists his days of kicking and screaming in the dressing room are over.

The 57-year-old Welshman believes age and experience have seen him mellow during the course of his managerial career.

Pulis feels his management style has also had to adapt as the personalities of players continue to evolve.

"The players here have been as good as gold – I have to say that," he said. "But you do get different characters in dressings rooms.

"If you have a go at some they might have a go back – others will take it and speak to you afterwards. I think the way I have grown and the way the game has grown you have to be more careful. You have to be more positive in your criticisms than you used to be.

"Generally though I think you have to determine who is running things and the players have to understand that.

"Players in today's game want guidance as much as anything. By doing that I think they work better a a group – if they are all in it and understand what is going on."

A PERFECT DAY – BAR RESULT

Albion 2 Leicester City 3

A GREAT day – shame about the team. Everything about Jeff Astle Day was perfect – apart from the performance.

Albion's modern-day stars looked a million dollars as they donned retro 1968 FA Cup Final kit in tribute to the Hawthorns icon.

But if the late former striker's family wanted a performance fit for 'The King' they were left sorely disappointed.

The meek, nervy surrender Tony Pulis's men served up was hardly befitting an occasion to pay tribute to such a swashbuckling figure.

And Pulis and Co left a dejected stadium with next season's Premier League place still very much in doubt.

With 33 points on the board and some daunting fixtures to play, Saturday represented their best chance to claim the win that would have all but cemented their top-flight status.

Instead, they served up a display that was sloppy at best and shambolic at worst to gift wrap a victory for the worst side in the Premier League. For a while it appeared the script had been written by Astle himself.

Darren Fletcher, the Baggies captain who had embraced the sentiments of Astle Day so wholeheartedly, put the hosts ahead just over a minute before the Birmingham Road End produced the afternoon's enduring image.

When a sea of posters behind Boaz Myhill's goal spelled out 'Astle, King' to cap an afternoon of wonderful tributes, it seemed the gods were with Pulis and his side.

Sadly, it was all downhill from there.

Just 11 minutes later the first of several defensive implosions from the hosts allowed David Nugent to latch on to Leonardo Ulloa's flick-on to level the scores.

A fine volley from Craig Gardner restored Albion's lead on 26 minutes and sent their supporters into half-time content but concerned.

The second half, though, was a tale of unadulterated woe. Leicester claimed the equaliser they deserved when shoddy defending allowed Robert Huth to head towards goal with Craig Dawson's horrible attempted clearance flying into the net.

Leicester seized on the merest sign of weakness and claimed a dramatic late winner through Jamie Vardy.

Craig Gardner lashes home the second goal to put 2-1 Albion ahead

We must pull together to stay up – Fletcher

CAPTAIN Darren Fletcher has called on Albion to pull together after warning they are in a real battle against the drop.

The skipper believes it is time for players to look at themselves after three straight defeats left them looking nervously over their shoulders.

"We need to take a look at ourselves as individuals and as a team and realise we are in a real battle," he said. "We have to come together."

Meanhile, winger Callum McManaman has made his comeback from injury and is looking to be involved in Saturday's game against Crystal Palace.

McManaman started Tuesday's Birmingham Senior Cup semi-final at Nuneaton – which Albion lost on penalties after a 1-1 draw. He last played in the 2-0 FA Cup defeat at Villa in March.

And Jonas Olsson says he is ready to play a part in curing the Baggies' defensive problems. The 32-year-old Sweden international is desperate to reclaim his place for the final six games.

Irrepressible Singh grabs all four goals

Tipton Town 4 Shephed Dynamo 4

TIPTON Town hotshot Gurjit Singh bagged all four goals – including a last-minute equaliser – in an eight-goal Midlands Premier thriller.

It was seen as a 'must-win' game for the Black Country side as they entered the closing stages of the campaign to preserve their Premiership status.

Singh, whose rapid rise has landed him on the books at Conference side Kidderminster Harriers, was deadly in front of goal and also set up Adam Hill to hit the bar.

Shepshed had started positively, but Singh gave the visitors the lead. The hot shot had already flashed a rising drive just over when he collected an 18th-minute pass, turned Shepshed defender Liam Lescott and finished strongly across keeper Liam Mitchell.

Rob Wall levelled on 34 minutes as the host's pressure told. But just before the hour mark Singh struck again. He brought down a crossfield pass from Dave Bate, jinked past Lescott and fired past the helpless Mitchell.

Yet the lead lasted just two minutes as Dave Hind scored a fine goal in this topsy-turvy clash.

There were no more goals until the last 20 minutes, and even then it looked like the hosts would take the spoils.

Singh completed his hat-trick in the 71st minute, outpacing the visitors' defence before sending Mitchell the wrong way.

Steve Towers equalised and Rob Morgan gleefully stabbed home what looked like an 88th-minute winner for the Leicester-based outfit. But they reckoned without the irrepressible Singh, who in the last minute danced through and planted his shot beyond Mitchell.

Villa owner Lerner set for Wembley

VILLA owner Randy Lerner is poised to make a rare public appearance for Sunday's FA Cup semi-final at Wembley.

Reclusive Lerner has rarely been seen at Villa Park in recent seasons but is scheduled to fly in to watch Tim Sherwood's side take on Liverpool in the last four, in what could be one of his last games as chairman.

The American owner remains keen to sell the club and talks are reported to be continuing over a £150m sale.

Lerner last attended a game at Villa Park last September.

That was his first home game since December 2012.

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★★★

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